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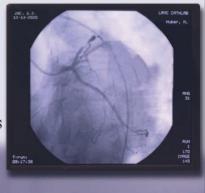
**Paintball** fuels need for speed Scene magazine

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## War wears on older troops

Number of deployed reservists brings more age-related, noncombat ailments

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## STARS STRIPES. COMING SOON



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### News Tracker ... What's new with old news

#### States

Embattled Colorado professor:
Settlement talks between the University of Colorado and the professor who compared some Sept. 11 victims to a notorious Nazi broke down Friday after a newspaper reported the teacher had once been accused of plagiarism.

David Lane, attorney for ethnic studies professor Ward Churchill, said the school broke off the talks, which were prompted by Churchill's 2001 essay calling some World Trade Center victims "little Eichmanns," a reference to Adolf Eichmann, who orchestrated the Holocaust.

University regent Michael Carrigan declined to comment on the negotiations but said he had "substantial concern" about a report in Friday's Rocky Mountain News in Denver that Dalhousie University in Nova Sotia had accused Churchill of plagiarizing the work of a professor eight years ago.

Former detectives linked to mob: Two former New York detectives accused of carrying out Mafia executions and supplying mob bosses with the names of informants were ordered Friday to be held without bail pending trial in New York.

U.S. Magistrate Judge Lawrence R. Leavitt said Louis Eppolito and his former partner, Stephen Caracappa, would pose a serious threat if granted bail.

The pair, who were arrested Wednesday night in Las Vegas, will be transferred to New York

Internet fraud scheme: The self-acknowledged mastermind behind an international scheme that bilked 15,000 investors of nearly \$60 million was sentenced Friday in Sacra-

mento, Calif., to 10 years in federal prison. In 1999, Alyn Richard Waage created Tri-West Investment Club, which prosecutors say was an Internet-based Ponzi scheme that used money from new investors to pay older investors from around the world who were guaranteed a high return at no risk.

Mass. gay marriages: A 1913 law the state is using to block same-sex marriages by nonresidents should apply only when the couples are from states that expressly forbid the practice, gay-rights advocates said in a brief filed Friday with Massachusetts' highest cour!

The law, which bars marriages in Massachusetts if a couple's home state doesn't sanction the union, has been in dispute since the nation's only state-sanctioned same-sex weddings began taking place last May.

Md. newspaper dispute: Maryland's biggest newspaper said Friday it will take its First Amendment fight with Gov. Robert Ehrlich to a federal appeals court next week unless the two sides can reach a settlement.

The (Baltimore) Sun has until Wednesday to appeal a Feb. 14 federal court ruling that dismissed the paper's lawsuit challenging an Ehrlich order that barred state employees from talking to two Sun writers.

Blake murder trial: Jurors in the Robert Blake murder trial ended a week of deliberations on Friday without reaching a verdict. The panel was ordered to resume deliber-



Anthrax cleanup: The post office in Hamilton, N.J., will reopen Sunday for the first time since October 2001, she the ost facility was found to be containated with anthrax spores. In the wake of Sept. 1.1, 2001, anthrax-laced letters bearing Trenton postmarks were sent to members of Congress and Tom Brokawa 4 NBC News in New York. Investigators have not determined who was responsible for the anthrax attacks, which killed four people across the country and sickness.

ations Monday in Los Angeles. Jurors have been discussing the case since March 4, when closing arguments concluded.

Muslim prayer dispute: Thirty Muslims walked off the job at a Dell Inc. plant in Nashville, Tenm, after alleging the company refused to let them pray at sunset — the latest dispute over prayer between an American business and its Islamic employees.

The Muslim workers, who were packaging Dell computers through a temporary labor agency, are taking the dispute to mediation, both sides said Friday.

**Death of casino heir:** A former stripper and her lover were each sentenced Friday to one to five years in prison for stealing a fortune in silver after the mysterious death of a wealthy Nevada casino heir.

Sandy Murphy, 32, and Rick Tabish, 39, were acquitted in Novembe of murdening Ted Binion, soo for legendary casino owner Benny Binion. However, the two were found guilty of conspiracy, burglary and grand larceny relating to the theft of \$7 million in silver that Binion had buried in the southern Newada desert.

#### War on terrorism

Shooting deaths of Iraqis: A Marine accused of premeditated murder in the shooting deaths of two suspected Iraqi insurgents will have an Article 32 hearing April 25 at Camp Lejeune, his lawyer said.

2nd Lt. Ilario Pantano, 33, allegedly shot the unarmed men in the back last April 15 as they tried to drive away from a house in Mahmudiyah, Iraq, that the Marines had been ordered to search.

**Sept. 11 detainee tapes:** More than 140 previously undisclosed videotapes of Sept. 11 detainees at the Metropolitan Detention Cen-

ter in Brooklyn recently were discovered and turned over to authorities probing physical and verbal abuses at the jail, a federal report and attorneys for the detainees said Friday.

Justice Department officials are still reviewing the 143 tapes, which include instances in which detention center staff recorded video and audio of detainees meeting with their attorneys, a violation of the law, the report and the attorneys said.

#### Business

Enron case: Government regulators handed a major victory to western utilities and cities trying to get out of exorbitant contracts they made with disgraced energy giant Enron Corp. during the power crisis of 2000-01.

In a six-page order issued Friday evening, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission determined that Enron was engaging in illegal activity at the time it entered in the contracts. It was the first time the commission acknowledged that the contracts were signed under fraudulent pretenses.

The regulatory agency said a hearing should be held to determine whether Enron can collect profits it would have received had those contracts been fulfilled.

#### World

Syrian troops in Lebanon: President Bashar Assad reiterated his commitment to withdrawing all Syrian troops and intelligence agents from Lebanon, a U.N. envoy said Saturday, adding he would present a timetable for the pullout at the United Nations next week.

U.N. envoy Terje Roed-Larsen did not give any details after meeting with Assad in the northern city of Aleppo but indicated he had received a timetable for the pullout.

Stories and photo from wire services

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## Older troops, newer medical concerns

## Increasing age of warfighters leads to increase in noncombat ailments

Stars and Strines

In many ways, Maj. William Wolfe is a typical Army reservist.
The 47-year-old high school history teacher from

outside Hershey, Pa., has served 21 years in a variety of roles as an active-duty and Reserve soldier. Before deploying with his transportation brigade in

January, Wolfe had no major medical problems and worked full-time behind a desk. But once he arrived at Camp Spearhead in Kuwait,

Wolfe soon found his body was not ready for the rigors of deployment: the long shifts lifting cargo and climbing stairs; the stress of a daily commute on roads insurgents were known to attack; the lack of

roads insurgents were known to attack; the lack of sleep from living with others in a tent. Within a month, Wolfe's body sent him a warning, A nagging pinch developed near his heart, and he found himself dizzy and out of breath — signs of possible heart trouble he feared could lead to an attack if

"You can't work 14- to 16-hour shifts when you're 47 years old when you haven't been in that kind of environment and expect to be fine," Wolfe said recently from a bed at Landstuhl Regional Medical

Center in Germany.

To doctors at Landstuhl, Wolfe presents a new reality for the U.S. military. As reservists and Na-tional Guardsmen are called to duty in unprecedented numbers, they are bringing new medical challenges with them

Part-time soldiers now make ut about 40 percent of the 150,000 troops in Iraq, a Pentagon spokes-man said. Overall, more than

184,000 reservists in all services are deployed world-wide, according to the Army National Guard Web

And because these troops tend to be older, military doctors find themselves dealing more with illnesses and injuries common in older patients.

The average age of reservists in all services is 33, according to the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs. A quarter of all rese ists are over age 40

At Landstuhl, where most soldiers injured downrange go for medical treatment, more troops arrive with noncombat injuries than fighting wounds. Eight out of 10 soldiers airlifted from battle zones since the beginning of the war in Iraq were treated for noncom-bat injuries, according to the reserve affairs office.

They suffer from diseases such heart problems, joint pain or noncombat injuries such as fractures suffered during training.

Atop the list of ailments is chest pain, followed by back pain and hernias. For Dr. (Col.) Randolph Modlin, chief of cardiology

at Landstuhl, the figures are easy to explain "We've never gone to war with guys as old as this

In 2004 alone, Landstuhl physicians treated 559 soldiers who suffered from heart disease or experienced chest pain downrange, according to hospital statistics. That's an average of almost 11 heart patients a week. By comparison, the hospital treated an average of 24 patients a week for all types of war wounds comed last year, according to hospital statistics

While most heart patients are over age 40, like Wolfe, Modlin said doctors have seen clogged arter-

ies in reservists in their 30s.

"It's just amazing how much coronary disease we've seen," said Dr. (Maj.) Michael Huber, a cardiologist at Landstuhl.

Just last month, doctors found a 95 percent blockage in an artery of 37-year-old Sgt. 1st Class Kris Bar-rett, a National Guardsman from Michigan. They later discovered Barrett came to war with another ar-

tery partially clogged that he knew nothing about.

While guarding Abu Ghraib prison in Baghdad, Barrett felt a pain in his chest and found himself out of breath while walking.

His first reaction: "I thought I needed to work out more," Barrett said from a bed at Landstuhl before flying to Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C., for heart surgery.

44 We've never

gone to war

with auus as old

as this before.

Dr. (Col.) Randolph

Chief of cardiology.

Landstuhl Regional

Medical Center

Modlin

Like Barrett, some patients go to war with heart trouble they do not discover until they push their bod-ies carrying heavy flak jackets in the desert heat.
For others, heart disease devel-

ops in combat because of habits common to the battlefield, including stress, poor diet and smoking, doctors said.

"An average 40-year-old there puts on 40 pounds of gear in that heat and lets people shoot at him — that's a recipe for heart failure," Modlin said

Back pain is the second most common noncombat injury Landstuhl doctors see. Like heart patients, back patients tend to be older, because bones and joints naturally

deteriorate over time, doctors said "That low-back twinge a reservist felt at home sud-denly becomes a war-stopper," said Michael Kil-patrick, deputy director of deployment health sup-

port in the reserve affairs office.

Hernias are the third most common noncombat injury seen at Landstuhl. Most of these patients are reservists and National Guardsmen because of their older ages, said Dr. (Col.) Tyler Putnam, a general surgeon who treats hernia

The Army and military doctors are doing a variety of things to address illnesses in older troops, such as adding new surgical specialties and beefing up physi-cal training for reservists. The Army plans to add a program to better monitor the health of its reservists Kilpatrick said. That may include requiring certain older reservists to take an electrocardiogram, or

EKG, every year.
An EKG test likely would have shown Barrett's early heart trouble, preventing him from going to Baghdad in the first place.

But Wolfe's diagnosis was different. After days of evaluations at Landstuhl, doctors released the reservist back to Kuwait. His heart showed no problems.

"I guess it was just the stress," Wolfe said.



Sgt. 1st Class Kris Barrett, 37, of the 119th Field Artillery Battalion of the Michigan National Guard, was flown from Baghdad to Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany recently after experiencing chest pains while guarding Abu Ghraib prison. Doctors discovered one of Barrett's arteries was 95 percent blocked and sent him to Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C., for surgery.

#### Where does it hurt?

Eighty percent of the 22,000 soldiers taken out of combat for injuries since the beginning of the war on terror in 2001 suffered injuries or disease not related to combat. Here is a breakdown of the top injuries caan in 2004

Injury	All armed forces	Army
Chest pain/heart disease (N)	559	410
Wound, unspecified fragment (C)	419	213
Wound, bullets (C)	374	191
Wound, bombs (C)	269	152
Backache/back pain (N)	241	209
Hernia (N)	206	183
Wound, other explosion (C)	198	110
Fracture (N)	139	85
Knee tear (N)	128	108

Source: Joint Patient Tracking Application

## Unhealthy trend causing doctors, policies to adapt

By Russ Rizzo

Stars and Stripes

With more soldiers leaving combat be cause of medical problems associated with advancing age, doctors and Army planners are adjusting to offer better treatment and to prevent unfit soldiers from seeing combat.

Doctors at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany, for example, are adapting to handle more heart and hernia patients, two of the top three non-combat injuries they treat.

Later this year, a doctor specializing in angioplasty will join Landstuhl's staff so the hospital can perform the procedure regularly rather than sending patients to

Walter Reed Army Medical Center or local German hospit

And, Dr. (Col.) Randolph Modlin, chief of cardiology at Landstuhl, said he has pushed the Army to bring more treadmills to Iraq so field doctors can better evaluate chest pain using stress tests. He said half of all patients who arrive at Landstuhl with chest pain are returned to combat because they have no medical problem.

Landstuhl doctors last year also helped change Army policy to allow hernia patients to return downrange on light duty Now 90 percent of soldiers treated at Landstuhl head back to war after surgery, up from just 30 percent before the change, said general surgeon Dr. (Col.) Tyler Put-

The Army also is looking at changes to prevent unfit soldiers from going to war in the first place.

The service is considering tougher physical fitness standards for all ages, said Michael Kilpatrick, deputy director of deployment health support in the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs. And, it is planning to change the way it monitors reservists' health.

During monthly call-ups, soldiers may be required to report any recent health problems. Kilpatrick said. If a troop pulled his back during a racquetball game, for example, he may be dropped from the reserves until he is fit enough to

"There is nothing more frustrating for a commander than to have someone in theater for a couple of months and then leave because of a problem that they knew

about before but suppressed," he said. An electrocardiogram test may be added to yearly physicals of older soldiers to catch heart problem before deploy-

ment, Kilpatrick said. Some of the measures are aimed at end-ing a mentality that has been common among part-time soldiers, he said.

"This attitude of, 'We're never going to be called up, or we're five years away and will be retired by then ...,' Kilpatrick said, "kind of got us to where we are today."

## Air Force tweaking Fit to Fight program

BY SANDRA JONTZ

Stars and Strings

One year after launching a more rigid physical fitness program, Air Force officials have tweaked the Fit to Fight program, and will stop penalizing wide-waisted airmen who otherwise meet healthy weight standards.

"[The changes] won't affect very many people and, in truth, are minimal changes," said Lt. Col. Sherry Sasser, chief of health promotions for the Air Force surgeon general. "But I think it will improve our ability to intervene much sooner and may give those few who fall outside of the set parameters a way to earn [full points] is

they have a healthy weight. It's not a lowing of standards."

Airmen who otherwise would have had points deducted for not meeting the waist circumference test now will get full points if their Body Mass Index falls within the healthy range, she said.

The BMI is calculated by one's weight in kilos, divided by height in meters squared, or by weight in pounds divided by height in inches squared and multiplied by 703. A BMI of 19 to 25 indicates a normal or healthy weight, according to the National Institutes of Health.

Fit to Fight replaced the Air Force's cycle ergometry test, and measures airmen's fitness by using a 1.5-mile run, waist

circumference or BMI, and number of pushups and sit-ups they can do. Airmen will continue to get up to 50 points for the run, 30 points for waist measurement or BMI metric, and 10 points each for sit-ups and pushups.

Anyone earning a poor fit score of 70 or lower will have to enter a five-day-a-week exercise program.

Officials also changed the time airmen hance to be retested if they fall in the low fit category — they will be retested within 90 days instead of the current 180 days. The change lets health officials assess sooner the effectiveness of weight loss or exercise programs and make necessary changes, Sasser said.

The length of time allowed to complete the 1.5 mile-run will be increased for tests done at higher elevations.

The changes came out of the physical fitness program's first annual review and will go into effect either in late spring or

early summer, Sasser said.

Air Force leaders rejected health officials' recommendations to change the scoring system to 60-20-10-10, which places a greater emphasis on the cardiovascular benefits of the run, Sasser said.

The change was rejected because they did not want to make too many changes too soon, she said Officials will continue to monitor the program and might adjust the scoring system during next year's review.

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## Blood runs thicker between siblings during war

#### Brothers and sisters of deployed servicemembers organize to support both troops and each other

BY SANDRA JONTZ Stars and Stripes

Stars and Stripes
Two hundred forty one died

that day. Oct. 23, 1983. Among them, a feisty 2

Among them, a feisty 20year-old Marine who, given the chance to live and marry, "would have had a slew of

children. I'm convinced of it," said his sister, Deborah Knipple Peter-

son.
Peterson, who
was 28 when Cpl.
Jim Knipple was
killed in the bombing of the U.S. Marine Corps barracks in Beirut,
Lebanon, grieved
along with fathers, mothers,
spouses and children.

But at the time, there were no "siblings only" groups who might have helped her grieve and heal with a perspective only siblings could know, she said.

Might have things been different? She wonders.

Today, with America's young troops at war, countless of those left behind at home have started groups and programs and efforts to make life better — be it for themselves or for the troops in the combat

Peterson, who teamed with a former Marine to give grieving siblings a peer group of their own, is among them.

Here are a few of the stories

#### A league of their own

Modeling a program after the American Gold Star Mothers, especially popular during the World War II era, Marine veteran Bill Kibler launched the Web site www.GoldStarSiblings.com to give brothers and sisters of servicemembers killed in combat a venue in which to connect with each other.

"Mothers have other children and there's nothing really for those children," said Kibler, 41, who served in Beirut in 1982-83 but was not there during the bombing. "Even fathers are feel-

ing left out." He has had a 44 Twenty years number of hits on later, I don't the Web site, but no one vet willing want people to to "take plunge" to the to post forget Jim. I thoughts, their their feelings, don't want their words people to "I'm getting 30

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Tim getting 30
arm getting 40
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taken away
from him. III
Bill Kibler
Peterson said
Ferenson said
Peterson said

Founder of Web site

for those who've lost

siblings to war

she's happy to oblige. "Twenty years later, I don't want

people to forget jim," she said. "I don't want people to forget he was a human, with dreams and aspirations that were taken away from him. He's

#### It's all in the wrist

Whether he's a patriot first or an entrepreneur first matters not to Steve Cloward.

He just wants folks to buy his

plastic wristbands, similar to the yellow ones made popular by cyclist Lance Armstrong in support of cancer research.

The bands publicly show support for troops fighting in the Middle East, he said, and financially support their families back home.

In October, Cloward began selling the plastic red, white, blue,



KATE UNDERWOOD/Courtesy to Stars and Stripe:

Pfc. Kara Underwood gives her sister Kate a hug. Kate, who promised to keep her big sister supplied in toiletries and goodies while in Iraq, went a step further and created a program in her hometown of Birds-

camouflage and red-white-blue marbled wristbands to anyone who would shell out \$1, with proceeds going to the Armed Forces Relief Trust, an organization run by volunteers who are former military and designed to help troops and families in time of need and emergencies.

To date, his organization, Bands for Freedom, has donated \$100,000 to AFRT

"I picked AFRT because I felt it was the best way to help services men and women and their families, and the main reason was because 100 cents on the dollar we give them passes on to the troops, with nothing pulled out" to cover expenses such as administrative costs he said

A majority of the colored bands sell through the Web site, www.bandsforfreedom.com.

#### A star(s) is born

boro, Pa., that raises money and ships donated items to her sister's fellow troops in Mosul.

When Kate Underwood's sister, who happens to double as her best friend, was shipped off to Iraq in August, the 18-year-old high school student promised to periodically send Pfc. Kara Underwood goodies and toiletries.

She figured fellow soldiers would need the same care and at-

So in September, Kate and four friends started raising money and collecting goods to ship to Mosul, Iraq, where Kara Underwood is serving.

The program grew, and today about 300 students and some 50 teachers from Daniel Boone Middle and High schools in Birdsboro, Pa., contribute to Kate's program she calls STARS. Stand To-

gether and Raise Support.

Collection boxes scattered

throughout the small town, about 20 minutes southeast of Reading, Pa., are filled weekly with items troops need and want while serving in Iraq.

Her Web site, http://www.dboone.k12.pa.us/HS\_Student\_ Work/stars/index.htm, contains a

wish list of items.
"She's my best friend, and [the separation] has been really hard for me," Kate said. "She's my sister, so she has to be proud of me, no matter what I do. But I think with STARS, it really just makes her proud."

The program will continue "as long as we have troops over there," said the graduating senior.

Her departure from the school this summer won't mean an end to the program. She has already picked successors.

E-mail Sandra Jontz at: jontzs@mail.estripes.osd.mil

## GIs see stable Iraq police force as 'ticket out'

### 127th MP Company has spent \$3 million on security forces

BY VINCE LITTLE

FORWARD OPERATING BASE FAL-CON, Iraq — The 127th Military Police Company has spent more than \$3 million on infrastructure and force-protection improvements during the past 10 months at the 19 Iraqi police stations it monitors in northwest Baghdad, said Army Capt. Keyin Hanrahan, the unit's commander.

An effective, stable Iraqi security force is key to a withdrawal of U.S. forces, he added.

"This country has to be secured by Iraqis. Iraq will never be truly secure unless it has a strong Iraqi police force, Iraqi army and Iraqi National Guard," said Hanrahan, 30, of Whitman, Mass. "That's our ticket nit."

Incret out:

The 127th Military Police Company, which works for the 2nd Brigade Combat Team of the 10th Mountain Division, will return to Hanau, Germany, next month after a year of day-and-night patrols in a highly volatile sector of Baghdad that lies north of the infamous Airport Road and east of the Eubrartes River.

During the year, the MPs made steady progress developing and training the Iraqi police, Hanrahan said. He credited the progress to upgrades in facilities and equipment delivered by the U.S. Army.



STAN VASQUEZ/Courtesy of the U.S. Army

A member of the 127th Military Police Company leads Iraqi police officers in a training session last month at the Al-Shoula station in northwest Baghdad.

Fortifying those 19 stations was a top priority. The buildings had to be capable of withstanding terrorist attacks so the Iraqi police could conduct business.

"The streets of Baghdad have no equal in the U.S., so they can't do normal police operations," Hamrahan said. "We have to enhance their capabilities so they can fight this insurgency—and become an effective security apparatus for the Iraqi people."

The stations once had a single wall of Constantine wire — also known as razor wire. Most now feature 9-foot-high concrete walls, sturdy enough to withstand heavy-caliber machine-gun fire and rocket-propelled grenades.

Flat rooftops were given 3-foot walls with fighting positions at every corner and overhead cover. That allows Iraqi police to move around and properly defend the facilities, he said.

Gates have been installed at each location, manned by guards toting AK-47s around the clock. The entrances are lined with zigzagging roads that weave through barriers, designed to prevent direct pene-

tration by insurgents.

Iraqi police officers also received additional body armor.

Hanrahan said the 127th MPs aimed the improvements at the most vulnerable stations first and proceeded from there.

"We also built them so they're user-friendly, to make the public feel safe to come in and file complaints," he said. "We think it's really worked.

"I wanted to harden my sites up as best as possible to make it very costly for insurgents to attack our stations."

That was put to the test in August, when about 85 terrorists attacked the Al-Shoula Police Station with RPGs and heavy-caliber machine guns. Not only did the Iraqi police stay and fight alongside the 127th MPs, he said, they kept the insurgents from breaching the gate.

Three months later at the Al-Hurriya Police Station, where updated force-protection work was still being completed, the Iraqis repelled an assault by 15 terrorists, without assistance from military police.

"Confidence in yourself and the equipment you have is pretty important," Hanrahan said. "It was significant in my mind to see them do that."

The Iraqi police within the 127th Military Police Company's sector routinely carry out dismounted patrols, vehicle and personal searches, checkpoints, community policing and the hunt for suspected terrorist.

Hanrahan said it's proof the efforts of his

soldiers are paying dividends.
"That's definitely a key to us going home, and it motivates my soldiers every

day," he said. "We've made a difference.

E-mail Vince Little at: littlev@pstripes.osd.mil



## **Seminars help families with** adoption of foreign children

Stars and Stripes

After three biological children, Maj. Paul and Monica Bovankovich still had room in their hearts and home for one more. So they adopted Abigail, now 2, through an agency in China.

After three failed pregnancies, Tech Sgt. Caroline Paton and her husband, Master Sgt. Robert Paton, decided to try adoption. They are expecting a child from Ukraine to join their family, perhans as soon as this summer

Seminars on how to adopt children from foreign countries will be held at three bases in England this month to answer questions for people who, for whatever reason, are considering an adoption.

"People are so scared of the unknown said Monica Bovankovich, who will share her story at the seminars. "They know they want to adopt, but they don't know what

A panel of social workers, immigration officials and adoption agency representatives are scheduled to take part in the seminars. They are scheduled for 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. March 22 at the RAF Lakenheath chapel; 5-9 p.m. March 22 at the RAF Mildenhall chapel; and 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. March 23 at the RAF Alconbury Family Support Cen-

Bovankovich said she and her husband, who works at the Joint



Monica Bovankovich holds Abigail, her adopted daughter. Bovankovich will tell the story of Abigail's adoption to prospective parents at seminars this month in England.

Analysis Center at RAF Molesworth, began the adoption process in January 2003, receiving Abigail from an orphanage in China about 15 months later.

The waiting period, she said in a telephone interview, is not much different from a pregnancy.

"It's an amazing thing. You want to protect them," she said of the adoptee-to-be. "It's like [one of her biological children] was taken to another country and you couldn't do anything. It was a helpless feeling."

The couple made a DVD of the entire process, she said, and "we pass them out like candy. We want to encourage people to do it. It's such a miracle."

For Paton, attempts to have children have ended in sadness three

Her husband who works in the safety office at RAF Lakenheath. was a moving force in their decision to adopt, she said.

"He saw me with children I have nieces and nephews." said in a phone interview. "He said, 'We should be parents.'"

The safety officer at PATE.

The safety officer at RAF Alconbury said she attended a small nar at the base last fall, at

which Boyankovich spoke. "The seminar allowed us to know our choices." Paton said.

The Patons will receive a child between the ages of 14 months and 2 years, she said. Ukraine does not allow children under the age of 14 months to be adopted in case the parents change their minds

"We know it will be life-change 'she said. "We're just so excit-

Bovankovich can attest to the feeling the Patons will experience when they first hold their child in their arms

"It's just like when you give birth," she said. "You didn't pick that child. That child was given to

E-mail Ron Jensen at: iensenr@mail.estrines.osd.mil

#### IMA-Europe employees recognized

Employees and communities under the Installation Management Agency-Europe were recognized for outstanding work in two Depart-

Agency-Europe were recognized to dustantianing work in two Department of the Army engineering competitions.

Two employees of the 100th Area Support Group, based in Vilseck, Germany, were honored in the annual William C. Gribble Jr. Directorate of Public Works Executive of the Year awards program.

Patrick Bennett was named the Gribble executive of the year for his work on Efficient Basing Grafenwöhr and privatization of utili-

ues.

And Gerhard Hoessel was named the DPW business management executive of the year for updating an obsolete locking system in many community buildings.

In the 26th Annual Secretary of the Army Energy and Water Man-

agement competition, IMA-E received honors in two categories for energy efficiency and energy management.

The 6th Area Support Group, based in Stuttgart, Germany, won in

the installation category and 415th Base Support Battalion in Kaiser-slautern, Germany, won in the small group category. The 415th BSB's win highlighted the work of Bob Ackley, chief of utilities; Dieter Haertel, mechanical engineer; and Paul Lindemer,

chief of the Facilities Engineering Division. They will be recognized during the engineer component of the IMA-AUSA Training Conference at the end of March in Kansas City, Mo.

#### NATO ships enter Red Sea

Six ships in NATO's Response Force Mine Countermeasures Group 2 crossed through the Suez Canal on Saturday, the first time these ships have traveled to the Red Sea as part of the alliance's standing force.

According to a NATO press release, the cruise is part of the alli-ance's Mediterranean Dialogue. The program is designed to devel-op cooperation and communication between the the crews aboard the ships and officials in the visited ports

The group is made up of six ships from the five nations that normally contribute to the mine countermeasures group: Spain, Germany, Greece, Turkey and Italy.

#### Gulf War ex-POW to speak at Mildenhall

RAF MILDENHALL, England - The commander of the Landstuhl Army Regional Medical Center in Germany, a prisoner of war during the Persian Gulf War of 1991, will speak at RAF Mildenhall as part of Women's History Month events.
Army Col. Rhonda Cornum is the featured speaker for a luncheon

from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday at the Galaxy Club.
Cornum was a flight surgeon for a helicopter battalion during Operation Desert Storm. During a mission to find a downed F-16 pilot

on Feb. 27, the Black Hawk helicopter in which she was riding was shot down. Five of the eight people aboard were killed. She was wounded and taken prisoner along with two other survivors.

Tickets for the luncheon are \$7 for club members and \$9 for nonmembers.

From staff reports

## USAREUR GIs honored as outstanding leaders

Stars and Strines

Two captains and a chief warrant officer have been selected to represent U.S. Army Europe in the Department of Army-wide 2004 Gen. Douglas MacArthur Leadership Award competition.

The three are: Capt. Joseph M. Ewers, Headquarters, Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment in Baumholder, Germany; Capt. John C. Moore, Company C. 2nd Battalion, 37th Armored Regiment in Baumholder, and Chief Warrant Officer 2 Ryan N. Collier, Company C, 1st Battalion, 1st Aviation Regiment in Katterbach, Germany.

The three had the highest rankings out of 15 winners at the US-AREUR level. Seven of the 15 US-AREUR winners are assigned to V Corps units.

For 15 years, the Department of the Army had given the award to officers who best demonstrate the values MacArthur stood for duty, honor and country. The award promotes and sustains effective junior officer leadership, according to Army documents.

About 3,200 officers are eligible for the award. Winners were nominated by their commands. Officials at major commands judged the packets, assigning each officer a ranking based on their assess-USAREUR's

top ny-grade officers, in addition to Ewers and Moore, follow. All are based in Germany unless other-

- wise noted.

  © Zapt. David Beaman, Headquarters and
  Headquarters Company, 37th Transportamand, Kaiserslauters

  © Zapt. Scott M. Halter, Company, B. 3rd
  Battalion, 158th Aviation, 12th Aviation Brigade, Giebelstadt;
- gade, Glebelstadt;

  Capt. William C. Hannan Jr., Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 18th Engineer Brigade, Glessen: eer Brigade, Giessen; ■ Capt. Deric J. Holbrook, Company ask Force 1st Battalion, 7th Field Artille
- ask Force 1st Battalion, 7th Field Artillery, chwelnfurt;
   Capt. John Kilbride, Headquarters and leadquarters Company, 1st Battalion (Air-rorne), 508th Infantry, 173rd Airborne Bri-aide, Aviano, Italiyin, Patrol Division, Inter-ational Special Training Centre, U.S. Army Jement, 7th Army Training Command, rafenwohr;

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   Gapt, Anthony T. Murtha, Company B.

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   Capt, Michelle M. Williams, Detachment

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- ern;

  Michief Warrant Officer 2 Jon V. Corey,
  159th Medical Company (Air Ambulance),
  150th Medical Brigade, Ansbach;
  Michief Warrant Officer 2 Sung K. Lee, DeAcachment B, 55th Personnel Services Battalon, 1st Personnel Command, Schwetzingen,
  May The Army-wide competition will be in



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## Ukraine begins pulling troops from Iraq

### 3 Iraqi police killed; Kurds, Shiites agree on government

BY SAMEER N. YACOUB

BAGHDAD — Gunmen shot to death three policemen and wounded another Saturday at a funeral procession in the northern city of Mosul, police said, while Ukraine withdrew 150 servicemen from Iraq, starting a gradual pullout that officials have said will be completed by October.

The attack occurred as police were taking part in a procession for a colleague's wife and two children who died in a roadside bomb attack in Mosul a day earlier, said policeman Ammar Hussein.

Insurgents led by Sunni Arabs, a minority that was dominant under Saddam Hussein, are targeting Shitte funeral processions and ceremonies in an apparent campaign to spark a sectarian war. Last month, suicide bomber attacked Shitte mosques during the commemoration of Ashoura, killing nearly 100 people.

The Ukrainian company that was based near Suwayrah, 25 miles south of Baghdad, left Iraq and was expected to return home by Tuesday, the Ukrainian Defense Ministry said.

Earlier this month, President Viktor Yushchenko and top de-



A private security guard keeps watch Saturday during a demonstration in Mosul, Iraq, denouncing Thursday's suicide bomb attack on a funeral at a Shiite mosque. The attack killed 50 and wounded over 100.

fense officials ordered a phased withdrawal of Ukraine's 1,650strong contingent from the U.S.led coalition in Iraq.

Ukraine has lost 17 soldiers in Iraq, and the deployment is deeply unpopular among people in the former Soviet republic.

Ukraine plans to pull about 590 more of its soldiers out of Iraq by May and the rest by October, the Defense Ministry said.

Yushchenko said March 1 that the pullout would be completed by Oct. 15, but Defense Minister Anatoly Gritsenko later said Ukraine might leave some troops in Iraq two months bevond that

deadline.

The U.S. military also announced that a U.S. soldier was skilled Friday during operations west of the Iraqi capital"in a non-hostile accident" in Anbar province, a hotbed of insurgent activity. The military said it was investigating the death but gave no other details

Iraq's main Shiite and Kurdish coalitions, meanwhile, have agreed on a deal divvying up the top three posts in the new government, but differences remained over the deployment of Arab troops in ethnic Kurdish areas.

A senior member of the Shiite-

slated to be Iraq's next president under the agreement. "There is discussion and there is an agreement on the basic prin-

is an agreement on the basic principles. But there is not final agreement on all the details.

This visit was on invitation by Talabani to Chalabi. The atmosphere was positive," said alliance member Ali al-Faisal.

The deal would give the Kurds one major Cabinet post — one fewer than they demanded — but they agreed to support the alliance's candidate for prime minister. Ibrahim al-Jaafari.

On the issue of territory, officials in both political camps said the deal provides for the eventual return of 100,000 Kurdish refugees to the oil-rich city of Kirkuk, southwest of Mosul.

Although the Kurds agreed to disband their 100,000-man pesh-merga militia and incorporate it into Iraq's army and security forces, they have opposed Arab troops being deployed in the north and that has become one of the few remaining points to be worked out.



led United Iraqi Alliance, Ahmad

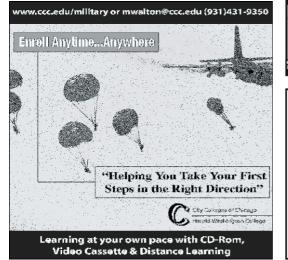
Chalabi, traveled late Friday to

Sulaimaniyah, 160 miles northeast of Baghdad, for talks with the

leader of the Patriotic Union of

Kurdistan, Jalal Talabani, who is







## **Rumsfeld vaunts** benefits of U.S. military prowess

Show of force in Mideast deters others from future 'mischief.' DOD chief says

military equipment such as tanks, helicop-

WASHINGTON - Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld upheld the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan Thursday as powerful demonstrations of U.S. military prowess that will make other countries think twice about making "mischief" around the world

BY ANN SCOTT TYSON

The Washington Post

Pressed by lawmakers on whether wear and tear on U.S. troops and equipment had impaired the Pentagon's ability to meet unforeseen global contingencies, Rumsfeld said U.S. commanders have assured him that "our military is capable of performing.

Rumsfeld acknowledged concern about stress on the force - particularly the Army Reserve and National Guard. He said U.S. ters and Bradley Fighting Vehicles are wear-ing out at from double to six times the peacetime rate, leading the Pentagon to request \$12 billion for equipment repairs in the fiscal 2005 emergency supplemental budget.

He also pointed to positive outcomes from the sustained combat. The fighting has created a force of "battle-hardened veterans" whose overthrow of the Taliban government in Afghanistan and Saddam Hussein's government in Iraq erased doubts in the minds of the nation's friends and foes over U.S. willingness to use force and stay the course of conflicts, Rumsfeld said.

"The world has seen, in the last 31/2 years, the capability of the United States of America to go into Afghanistan ... and with

88



Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld testifies before the House Armed Services Committee on Thursday.

20,000, 15,000 troops working with the Afghans do what 200,000 Soviets couldn't do in a decade. They've seen the United States and the coalition forces go into Iraq. ... That has to have a deterrent effect on peonle" he testified before the House Armed Services Committee

"If you put yourself in the shoes of a country that might decide they'd like to make mischief, they have a very recent, vivid example of the fact that the United States has the ability to deal with this," he said.Rumsfeld was asked about a potential military threat from China, and said this year's Quadrennial Defense Review — a major rethinking of U.S. military strategy would plan long-range weapons systems with respect to China and other circumstances that can change dramatically.

### U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Friday, March 11, 2005, at least 1,513 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associat-ed Press count. At least 1.153 died as a result of hostile action, according to the Defense Department. The figures in-clude four military civilians.

The AP count is five higher than the Defense Department's tally.

The British military has reported 86 deaths; Italy, 20; Ukraine, 18; Poland, 17; Spain, 11; Bulgaria, eight; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary, Kazakhstan and Latvia one death each

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,375 U.S. military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 1,044 deaths resulting from hostile action, ac-

cording to the military's numbers. The latest deaths reported by the mili-

One soldier was killed in a non-hostile accident Friday in Anbar province. The latest identifications reported by

the military: Army Spc. Matthew A. Koch, 23, West Henrietta, N.Y.: killed Wednesday when an explosive detonated near his vehicle in Taji, Iraq; assigned to the 70th Engineer Battalion, Fort Riley,

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#### Bulgaria debates Iraq mission

SOFIA, Bulgaria - A senior government official said Friday that Bulgarian troops should remain in Iraq until the end of their mandate, despite widespread popular opposition.

"A pullout of the Bulgarian troops from Iraq ahead of the general elections here this summer

would be a wrong move," Deputy Foreign Minister Gergana Grancharova said in a television interview. The liberal government of Prime Minister Simeon Saxcoburggotski is to decide by the end of the month whether to keep troops in Iraq beyond July.

Parliament will then take the final decision. Bulgaria has a 460-member infantry battalion serving under Polish command in the southern

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## Iraqi army arrests 30 insurgents in raid

## U.S. troops stand by on outskirts of village to provide long-distance firepower

Stare and Strings

HIB HIB, Iraq - The Iraqi army rounded up 30 people Thursday night and early Friday morning, including the suspected leader of a bomb-planting insurgency cell and a man suspected of murdering a mayor and plotting the assassination of his successor

The Iraqi soldiers raided the village of Hib Hib, about six miles west of Baqouba, by themselves with only a small contingent of U.S. troops standing by on the outskirts of the village

It was the first battalion-sized operation conducted by the U.S.-trained Iragis in Divala province in north-central Iraq. They previously had conducted smaller missions.

The operation, which took two weeks to plan, was supposed to include a larger group of U.S. soldiers who would have surrounded the suspects' hideouts as Iraqis conducted the raids

But after the larger U.S. contingent was called off the mission because of muddy, rain-soaked conditions that hampered visibility and travel, the Iragis - members of the 204th Iraqi Army Battalion and their commander, Col. Abdullah Hassoni Abdullah - insisted on going forward by themselves.

"In [Abdullah's] mind, it was, 'No, I've got to go tonight,' " said Lt. Col. Rob Roggeman, commander of 2nd Battalion, 69th Armored Regiment, which planned the raid with the Iraqis. "I was restricted to [using] two platoons

The only U.S. soldiers taking part were two maneuver platoons that guarded the two routes leading out of town, and a sniper team placed aton the Hib Hib police station to keep an eye on the village and provide long-distance firepower if necessary.

Among those arrested at sites throughout the village was Manaf Saleh al-Chiali, nicknamed the "Zarqawi of Hib Hib" after the notorious fugitive. Manaf Saleh is suspected of organizing car bombings and roadside bombs.

Also arrested was Sheik Ghazi suspected of arranging the Sep tember murder of Hib Hib's former mayor and putting a bounty on the village's current one

At 11:20 p.m. Thursday, Iraqi troops in white pickup rolled into the village. About 10 minutes later, a flurry of 50 to 100 gunshots rang out on the south side of the darkened town Around midnight, three U.S. Humvees were seen from atop the police station rolling with lights out to their positions

The village was quiet for the next two hours as, during a steady rainfall, the Iraqi soldiers surrounded the suspects' hideouts and homes while others knocked on the suspects' doors and placed them under arrest

some cases, neighbors helped point out where suspects were staying, according to a brief-



Lt. Col. Rob Roggeman, center, commander of 2nd Battalion, 69th Armored Regiment, and Col. Abdullah Hassoni Abdullah, center right, commander of the 204th Iraqi Army Battalion, go over plans at Forward Operating Base Scunion in Bagouba, Iraq, for a raid on Thursday night.

by Iraqi and U.S. commanders.

After 21/2 hours, all the suspects had been rounded up. Blindfolded and with hands tied, they were loaded onto the backs of flatbed trucks for the cold, rainy ride to a

ing conducted after the operation holding cell at Forward Operating Base Scunion in Bagouba home of the 2-69, which is part of the 42nd Infantry Division's Task Force Liberty

One insurgent was wounded when he was grazed in the head by a bullet, and an Iraqi soldier received a superficial head wound. military officials said.

"There was very little fight [by the insurgents]," said Maj. Will Johnson, operations officer for

to refrain from kicking down doors. It was more of a "cor-don-and-knock" operation.

"We try to avoid random raids but instead do organized raids," he said. "We don't want to create problems between the Iraqi army and the people. We want to have a good relationship with them.

Roggeman praised the Iraqi

"He [Abdullah] is very aggres-sive," Roggeman said. "He wants to get it on, which is good for us.

Military personnel later tried to verify the identities of the prisoners and interrogate them. Some could be set free, Roggeman said. Most, he added, were likely guilty based on corroborated information obtained by the two armies.

The battalion could hold the suspects at FOB Scunion for up to 48 hours, Roggeman said. Those not released would be moved to another detainment facility at the battalion's parent unit, the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, across the street at FOB Warhorse.

Detainees not released would probably be prosecuted by the fledgling Iraqi legal system, Roggeman said. He added that the U.S. military could hold the suspects indefinitely if necessary to ensure they don't slip through cracks in the Iraqi system

"It's still martial law," Roggeman said. "The military can do what it wants '

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## Congress grills DOD on lack of tourniquets

Congressional officials have asked the Army to investigate why all soldiers are not carrying modern tourniquets into battle, a request that comes two months after military leaders ordered dis-tribution of the medical devices.

During hearings this week before the defense subcommittee of the Senate Appropriations Com-mittee, members asked for a review of the issue and a timetable for when soldiers might start carrying the items.

Also this week, The (Balti-more) Sun reported that two Democrats - Illinois Sen. Richard J Durbin and Michigan Sen. Carl Levin - wrote a letter to Secre tary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld

asking him to conduct a "high-level" review of the issue. "We are deeply concerned by reports that the Pentagon has failed to identify and fulfill urgent requests for equipment essential to saving lives of our troops in the field," the letter said. "This type field," of delay is disturbing during times of peace, but in the midst of the armed conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan, it is nothing short of ap-

palling."
On Jan. 6, the U.S. Central Command issued a directive requiring soldiers serving in Iraq to carry the tourniquets

The Sun published an investigation on March 5 detailing how distribution of the tourniquets have been delayed because training manuals are still being written and carrying cases for the devic-

es are still being designed. At the Senate hearing, Army Chief of Staff Gen. Peter J. Schoomaker said no soldiers are entering combat without all the supplies needed. Troops are trained to improvise tourniquets out of items on hand, he said, but added. "I see no reason why there would be any shortage."

The Sun report included interviews with more than a dozen military doctors and medical specialists who said some soldiers in Iraq could have been saved if a tourniquet was available at the time of injury. For example, when Lt. David R. Bernstein was hit, a buddy struggled to fashion a makeshift tourniquet, but it tourniquet, broke. Bernstein died that night.

## **Ex-commander: Youths** were held at Abu Ghraib

BY MATT KELLEY The Associated Press

WASHINGTON - A boy no older than 11 was among the children held by the Army at Iraq's Abu Ghraib prison, the former U.S. commander of the facility told a general investigating abuses at the prison.

Brig. Gen. Janis Karpinski did not say what happened to the boy or why he was imprisoned, according to a transcript of her interview with Maj. Gen. George Fay that was released by the American Civil Liberties Union.

The transcript of the May 2004 interview was among hundreds of pages of documents about Iraq prisoner abuses the group made public Thursday after getting them under the Freedom of Information Act.

Karpinski, who was in charge

of Abu Ghraib from July to November 2003, said she often visited the prison's youngest inmates. One boy "looked like he was 8 years old," Karpinski said.

"He told me he was almost 12," Karpinski said. "He told me his brother was there with him, but he really wanted to see his mother, could he please call his mother. He was cry-

Military officials have acknowledged that some ju venile prisoners had been held at Abu Ghraib, a massive prison built by Saddam Hussein's government outside Baghdad. But the transcript is the first documented evidence of a child no older

ing.

than 11 being held prisoner. Military cials have said that no juvenile prisoners were subject to the abuses captured in pho-

tographs from Abu Ghraib. But some of the men shown being stripped naked and humiliated had been accused of raping a 14-year-old prisoner.

The new documents offer rare details about the children whom the U.S. military has held in Iraq. Karpinski said the Army began holding women and children in a high-security cellblock at Abu Ghrail in the summer of 2003 he-

cause the facility was better than lockups in Baghdad where the vouths had been held.

The documents include statements from six witnesses who said three interrogators and a civilian interpreter at Abu Ghraib got drunk one night and took a 17-year-old female prisoner from her cell. The four men forced the

girl to expose her breasts and kissed her, the reports said. The witnesses whose were blacked out

names of the documents given to ACLU said those responsible were not punished.

Pentagon spokesman Bryan Whitman has said three soldiers were given "nonjudicial punishment" for making

her

a female prisoner expose Ghraib prison in Iraq breasts. Noniudicial punishments are sanctions short of a court-martial, such as being fined or re-

duced in rank. The ACLU has sued Donald Rumsfeld on behalf of four Iragis and four Afghans who say they were tortured at U.S. military fa-

Rumsfeld and his spokesmen have repeatedly said that the defense secretary and his aides never authorized abuse

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#### Four officers investigated for sexual misconduct at Gitmo

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brother was

there with

him, but he

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to see his

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was cruina.

Brig. Gen. Janis

in documents about

vouths held at Abu

Karpinski

WASHINGTON - Four U.S. officers, including a one-star general, at the detention center for terrorism suspects at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, are under criminal investigation for alleged sexual misconduct, a senior defense official said Friday. The general's case has been referred to the Army, the official

U.S. Southern Command, which oversees the Guantanamo facility, had announced March 4 that two lieutenant colonels and one colonel had been suspended pending an investigation of alleged "personal miscon duct," which was not further described.

None of the accused officers have been identified by name and Southern Command did not disclose that the case referred to the Army involved a general officer. The senior defense official spoke on condition of anonymity because the cases are under legal review.

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#### IN THE STATES

### Bush, Dems trade shots over Social Security

WASHINGTON - President Bush and Democrats took their differences over Social Security to the airwayes on Saturday, with Bush complaining about "scare ads" against his plan and Democrats denouncing his proposal as a "risky privatization scheme

"Postponing reform will leave our children with drastic and unpleasant choices: huge tax increases that will kill jobs, massive new borrowing or sudden, painful cuts in Social Security benefits or other pro-grams," Bush said in his weekly radio address.

In the Democratic broadcast an hour later, James Roosevelt Jr. - a grandson of President Franklin D. Roosevelt and former Social Security official accused Bush of breaking a long tradition of bipartisan support for the retirement pro-

gram 1935, my grandfather signed the Social Security Act into law. suring that Amer icans re tired with financial



"And since that time, Democrats and Republicans have worked together to protect and strengthen Social Security. Like most Americans, I agree with the guiding principle that America's workers deserve a secure retirement," added Roosevelt, who served as the Social Security Administra-tion's associate commissioner for retirement policy during the Clinton administration.

Bush reiterated his promise of no changes in current benefits to those already retired or who are age 55 or older, "no matter what the scare ads or the politicians might tell you." Under Bush's plan, younger

workers would have the option of diverting part of their Social Security taxes into stock or bond investments - in exchange for a reduction in future guaranteed benefits. The president contends that workers can benefit from higher rates of return from stocks and honds

But critics claim such a plan would penalize workers in times of long market downthat Social Security won't approach default until mid-century and that Bush's proposals won't fix the system's financial problems any

They do not prolong the life of the program by a single day," Roosevelt said.



WSB-TV/AF

In a video image, Brian Nichols, the suspect in the shooting of Superior Court Judge Rowland Barnes, his clerk and a Fulton County Deputy, is escorted Saturday by FBI agents into a building.

## Suspect in Ga. slayings caught

BY RUSS BYNUM The Associated Press

DULUTH, Georgia - A man accused of killing three people at an Atlanta courthouse Friday was captured Saturday after taking a woman hostage at an apartment complex and was a suspect in the fatal shooting of an immigration agent found dead hours earlier, officials said.

"Brian Nichols is in custody. He turned himself in without incident. Everybody is safe," said Officer Darren Moloney of the Gwinnett County Police Department. Molonev said Nichols was armed and had a female hostage when he was caught. The woman was not identified by authorities.

Nichols, 33, was taken into federal custody. FBI spokesman Steve Lazarus said Nichols is a suspect in the courthouse shootings and Saturday's fatal shooting of a U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agent, whose blue pickup truck, pistol and badge were missing.

The courthouse shootings Friday set off a massive manhunt and created widespread chaos across Atlanta, where schools, restaurants and office buildings locked down amid fears that the

suspect might strike again. Nichols was being escorted to his retrial on rape and other charges Friday when he allegedly over-powered court deputy Cynthia Hall, taking her gun, before killing the judge presiding over his case, a court reporter and a deputy who confronted him as he escaped the courthouse. Hall remained in crit cal condition Saturday.

Nichols then allegedly pistol whipped Atlanta Journal-Constitution reporter Don O'Briant and stole his car But later that night the car was found in the parking garage where Nichols allegedly stole it.

O'Briant wrote in Saturday's Atlanta Journal-Constitution that he had just parked his car when a young man pulled a gun and said, "Give me your keys or I'll kill you," then told him to get in the trunk.

O'Briant refused and started to run and eventually escaped.

In the rape case, Nichols was accused of bursting into his ex-girlfriend's home, binding her with duct tape and sexually assaulting her over three days. Fulton County District Attorney Paul Howard said Nichols brought a loaded machine gun into the home and a cooler with food in case he was hungry.

Nichols had been dating the

woman for eight years, and she tried to break up with him after he got another woman pregnant. Hazen said. Though he is accused of imprisoning the woman and raping her, Hazen said his client claims she invited him over and they had consensual sex

Nichols faced a possible life sentence if convicted in his retrial on charges of rape, sodomy, bur-glary, and false imprisonment, among others. Prosecutor Gayle Abramson said she believes Nichols was certain he would be convicted and was willing to kill to avoid it.

#### Rice denies presidential aspirations for 2008

WASHINGTON - Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, who has been mentioned as a possible Republican presidential candidate in 2008, denies having any such ambitions now

During a discussion with editors and reporters Washington Times, Rice was asked, "Would you consider running for president in I have never wanted to run for any-20082" 4 thing." Rice said in the interview published Satur-"I don't think I even ran for class anything

when I was in school.' In a poll conducted in February, 42 percent of voters said Rice should run for the White House. The survey, conducted by the Siena College Research Institute and sponsored by Hearst Newspa-

really hard for me to imagine myself in that role."

pers, found that 81 percent of people would vote for a woman for president; 53 percent thought Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, D-N.Y., should try for the job "I'm going to try to be a really good secretary of state," Rice told the

Times. "I have enormous respect for people who do run for office. It's



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## Dispute shuts down House ethics panel

BY SUZANNE GAMBOA
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A dispute between Republicans and Democrats over new rules has virtually shut down the House

ethics committee.

The panel's five Democrats this week balked at adopting Republican-crafted operating rules passed earlier by the GOP-controlled House, leaving the committee in

West Virginia Rep. Alan Mollohan, the committee's senior Democrat, said Friday the panel now can't take action against a member or aide or launch inquiries into their conduct. But that's better than operat-

ing by the GOP's new rules, he said.
"If you are going to have an ethics committee, you are going to have to do it right. You are going to have a good ethics committee; otherwise, you shouldn't have one,"

Mollohan said. The ethics committee meets occasionally, when an investigation is pending. An informal truce by Democrats and Republicans not to push ethics probes of each other's conduct ended last year with a Democratic complaint against Republican Majority Leader Tom DeLay of Texas. The com-

mittee issued three findings criticizing

DeLay.

Democrats said the new rules would prevent renewing pending inquiries involving DeLay and Rep. Jim McDermott, D-Wash. Mollohan said previously rules were written for the committee by bipartisan task

forces, not dictated by the House.

Now that the committee has missed the deadline for adopting the rules, the full House must again approve them before the committee can start operating. This time, however, a single House member could block them.

DIOCK them. "We understand that our Democratic members are frustrated about the new rules, but we are hospeful we can persuade them that the ethics committee has no choice but to enforce the rules as passed by the full House," said £C (assidy, an aide to the ethics panel's new chairman, Rep. Doc Hastings, R-Wash.

One of the rules would require dismissal of a complaint if, after 45 days, committee members had not acted to keep the complaint on the agenda. Mollohan said that rule allows committee members "to just sit

rule allows committee members "to just sit on their hands and let the clock tick." Cassidy said Hastings hopes that he and Mollohan "can work something out."

## Report says money from Indian tribe, gambling company funded DeLay trip

WASHINGTON — House Majority Leader Tom DeLay traveled to Britain with his wife, several aides and lobbyists

with his wire, several on a \$70,000 junket mostly paid for with money from an Indian tribe and a gambling services company, The Washington Post reported Saturday.

Saturday.

Not long after the outing, DeLay, the second most powerful Republican in the House of Representatives, played a key role in killing gam-

ing-related legislation opposed by the company and tribe.

DeLay, R-Texas, reported in House financial disclosures that the weeklong May 2000 trip was paid for by the National Center for Public Policy Research, a nonprofit organization. However, the Post reported, lobbyist Jack Abramoff suggested the trip and arranged for two of his clients, the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians and eLottery Inc., to send checks to

the center to cover the travel.

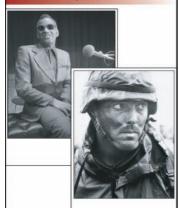
A lawyer for the tribe and an eLottery official said they were unaware the checks were meant to pay for the DeLay trip, which included golf at Scotland's legendary St. Andrews course.

The newspaper's review of documents related to the trip found the dates on the two checks coincided with the day De-Lay's party left on their trip. The Choctaw and eLottery each sent a \$25,000 check the Post found.

Under House rules, lawmakers and their staffs are permitted to have travel expenses paid only for officially connected travel and only by organizations directly connected to the trip. Payments by registered lobbyists are not allowed.

— The Associated Press

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## Study for bridge barrier ordered

he Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Golden Gate Bridge officials ordered studies for a suicide barrier Friday, leaving engineers with the difficult task of designing a structure that can stop bridge jumpers without marring the world-famous span.

The board of directors of the Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District approved a committee's decision last month to develop a design, conduct environmental reviews and seek funding to build the suicide deterrent.

Since the bridge was built in 1937, an estimated 1,300 people have taken the deadly 220-foot plunge from what many consider the world's leading site for suicides. An average of 20 people



Tourists Phil Howard, left, Dorothy Dove, center, and Richard Alvarez take in the view from the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco on Friday. Bridge officials gave final approval Friday to begin studies for a suicide barrier on the bridge.

pitch themselves over the 4½foot-tall rail each year. Golden Gate directors ex-

Golden Gate directors expressed concern about how the district would pay for the project. The district plans to look for outside money to pay for the studies, which are expected to cost about \$2 million and take about two

years, said spokeswoman Mary Currie. Building the barrier itself is estimated to cost between \$15 million and \$25 million.

Engineers will confront the complex job of "finding something that deters suicides while keeping the flavor of the bridge in its original art deco style," Currie said.

#### **Hughes may join State Department**

WASHINGTON — Karen Hughes, one of President Bush's closest confidants who left the White House nearly three years ago to return home to Austin, Texas, has accepted a key post in the State Department, administration officials said Friday.

Hughes — who has continued to advise the president, most visibly during the final stretch of his re-election campaign — will be nominated by him to be undersecretary of state for public diplomacy, the officials said on the condition of anonymity.

The undersecretary, who must be confirmed by the Senate, deals with polishing the U.S. image

She sent word through her Austin office Thursday that she would have no comment. The announcement of her appointment, though, is expected as early as Monday.

#### Schwarzenegger made 'news' videos SACRAMENTO, Calif. — Gov. Arnold Schwarze-

SACKAMENTO, Caint. — GOV. Arthold Schwarzenegger's administration has acknowledged making several videos masquerading as news stories to promote its agenda, creating an uproar from Democrats and labor leaders in a controversy parallel to one ignited by the Bush administration.

"When the governor produces official government propaganda and tries to fake it to look like news it's very, very corrosive to democratic values," said Barry Broad, a labor lobbyist who compared it to efforts by totalitarian regimes.

Criticism initially focused on a video promoting labor regulations altering workers' meal breaks. But the administration later said it made videos on other Schwarzenegger initiatives, as well.

Critics said the tailored-for-TV-news videos amount to taxpayer-funded campaign propaganda. From wire services



Fifteen-month-old Qudrat Wardak, of Afghanistan, is carried Tuesday by his father, Hakimgul Wardak, 32, in Riley Hospital for Children in Indianapolis. Surgeons operated on the reversed blood vessels in Qudrat's heart. The U.S. military flew the boy and his father to the States after an Indiana National Guard doctor diagnosed the child's heart problem.

## Afghan child doing well after surgery

#### 15-month-old gets heart defect repaired at hospital in Indiana

BY JEANINE IBRAHIM The Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS

15-month-old Afghan boy was breathing on his own Wednesday following surgery to repair a life-threatening heart defect that had been diagnosed by a U.S. military doctor working in a refugee camp

Surgeons at the Riley Hospital for Children operated on Qudrat Wardak for about six hours Tuesday to move the reversed main blood vessels in his heart into their proper place.

Dr. Mark Turrentine said Tuesday he was pleased and thankful to see Qudrat doing so well after the high-risk operation. The boy was listed in serious but stable condition Wednesday.

"He's doing rather well," hospital spokesman Jon Mills said. The first 24 to 48 hours after surgery are the most critical, as doctors must monitor Qudrat to ensure that his heart is functioning properly. Turrentine said.

Once he's taking formula and we know he's doing well on his own, he could be released," said Dr. Robert Darragh, a pediatric cardiologist. The U.S. military flew Qudrat

and his father from Afghanistan nearly two weeks ago for the surgery after an Indiana National Guard doctor diagnosed the heart problem during an exam at the camp in the Afghan capital,

After Oudrat is discharged, he will need further monitoring for a couple of weeks and then be able to go back to Afghanistan, where he most likely would not need any medication or medical assistance, Darragh said.

Qudrat's condition is called transposition of the great arteries, in which the aorta and pulmonary artery are reversed, sending oxygen-rich blood from the heart to the lungs and oxygen-poor blood into the rest of the body.

The boy, who at 13 pounds weighs about as much as a typical 5-month-old, also suffers from other heart problems, which com-bine to restrict his blood flow and stunt his development, Riley doctors have said.

Qudrat's father, Hakimgu Wardak, 32, was exhausted after Hakimgul staying up all night Monday with his son and then Tuesday morning carrying him into the operat-

"He's very overwhelmed and happy after he saw his son in the operating room and doctors told him how super Qudrat was feel-" Wardak's interpreter said.

The surgeons were donating their time to help the boy, and the local Rotary Club is covering other costs.

## Ky. smokers brace for tax hike

By BRUCE SCHREINER The Associated Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. - Kentucky smokers, long accustomed to a barely noticeable cigarette tax, just learned that tobacco isn't as big here as it used to be.

The state's 3-cent-per-pack cig-arette tax — the lowest in the nation - is rising by 27 cents June 1, as part of a tax overhaul passed by the General Assembly this week in hopes of solving the

state's fiscal woes. Other major tobacco-producing states including Virginia and North Carolina recently an. proved or are considering cigarette tax increases. but that hasn't kept Ken-

tucky smokers from feeling singled out. "It just shows me the politicians tay the things they care about the least,

Barbara Dan ford said while buying a pack of cigarettes at a Cox's Smokers Outlet in a working-class neighbor-

"That's the one market that they know no matter how much they raise it, the people that really want to smoke are going to pay it." she said.

Gov. Ernie Fletcher, a physician who originally proposed a 31-cent increase, called it a "historic" day for Kentucky, the nation's leading producer of burley tobacco, to increase its cigarette tax.

"This sends a very strong health message to Kentuckians about tobacco and its use," he said.

The Centers for Disease Con trol and Prevention said last year that Kentucky has the nation's highest adult smoking rate at nearly 31 percent, and another federal report said the state has the nation's highest lung-cancer death rate among men.

When health advocates first floated the idea of raising Kentucky's cigarette tax several vears ago, "they

A taxing habit

Pay up: Smokers in Ken-

tucky will see the state's 3-cent-per-pack cigarette tax — the lowest in the nation — go

up by 27 cents June 1.

Huffin': The increase has

those with the habit hot under

the collar. "It just shows me the

politicians tax the things they care about the least," Barbara

Payoff: A higher tax could selp lower Kentucky's adult

smoking rate, the highest in the

Danford said

nation.

were practically laughed out of Frankfort," said Tonya Chang, state director of advocacy for the American Heart Associa-

"It's a sign of the times that we're no longer as beholden to tobacco interests as we once were," she said.

In some parts of the country, state and local cigarette taxes can add up to \$2 or even \$3 a pack, but states that relied heavily on tobacco crops had long kept their taxes at a nickel or less. But with tighter state

creasing, even those states have given the tax a second look. Eighteen-year-old Mike Hardy who leaned against his brother's car while taking a long drag on his cigarette outside Cox's, said higher taxes will only hurt tobacco farmers.

budgets and tobacco revenue de-

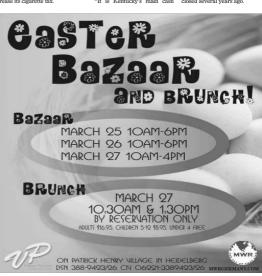
"It is Kentucky's main cash

Mike Hardy, 18, finishes a ciga rette Wednesday in Louisville, Ky. Starting June 1, the 3-cent-perpack cigarette tax goes up by 27 cents. Hardy says that will reduce sales and hurt tohacco farmers.

crop," Hardy said. "The more they raise [the tax], the more people are not going to smoke, and it puts our farmers out of business." But Kentucky's tobacco sector

already has shrunk considerably.
Tobacco sales that exceeded \$900 million annually in the late 1990s could drop below \$400 million this year as fewer farmers grow leaf in the wake of a tobacco buyout that ended the government's price-support system.

Tobacco's manufacturing and corporate presence, meanwhile, has faded. Cigarette-maker Brown & Williamson Tobacco Corp. departed Louisville after merging with R.J. Reynolds, and a Philip Morris plant in Louisville closed several years ago.



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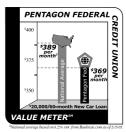
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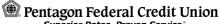
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## New heart pump gives tiniest patients hope

PITTSBURGH Shanah Bridgett's heart failed when she was only 8. Carlos Ochoa was 7 when his heart began to stiffen, limiting its pumping ability. Miles Coulson was just weeks old when doctors discovered he had

an enlarged heart. All of these children may have died, doctors say, if not for an experimental, child-size artificial heart pump that kept them alive

while awaiting transplants. For years, pumps have been used successfully for adults awaiting transplants. But only recently have U.S. researchers focused attention on devices for the tiniest heart patients. Because so few children need such technology maybe 30 or 40 a year in the United States - there has been no commercial interest in producing such pumps here

At Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh, surgeons have been working with a European ventricular assist device called the Berlin Heart. They have implanted the device, approved for use in Eu-rope, in Shanah and another

"It's the difference between a dead child and a live child," said Dr. Steven Webber, medical di-rector of the hospital's heart transplantation program.

Shanah was near death when she got her implant; eight days later, she received a donor heart. Now her mother often has to scold her for doing one-handed cartwheels. "She's doing phenomenal," said Lori Bridgett, of Pittsburgh

The pediatric Berlin Heart has

### Mayor, judge charged in voting scandal

The Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. - The mayor and a circuit court judge surren-dered Friday on a felony charge that they paid a campaign worker to collect absentee ballots, and the mayor was suspended from his post.

A defense attorney denied charges against Mayor Buddy Dyer, Circuit Court Judge Alan Apte and two others who also turned themselves in on similar indictments — Dyer campaign man-ager Patty Sharp and Ezzie Thomas, a campaign consultant to Dyer and Apte.

Apte has been "unassigned" and his docket has been turned over to another judge, said Karen Levey, a spokeswoman for the 9th Judicial Circuit of Florida.

Dyer, a Democrat, called the charge politically motivated and said he intends to fight it. He could return to his \$144,349-a-year job if he is successful.

The indictments were issued a day earlier by a grand jury looking at whether Thomas illegally collected absentee ballots in predominantly black neighborhoods for Dyer's and Apte's campaigns a year ago in this city of 186,000 residents. States 12 times, in each case with emergency government approv-

al. The German company that makes the device, Berlin Heart AG, plans to seek approval from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, said chief executive Rene

Some children develop heart disease from a virus or other illness: others — more than 30,000 a year in the United States - are born with heart defects, according to the National Institutes of Health. Surgery helps in many cases, but for some the only solu-

waiting for a donor.

Webber said about 25 percent of children waiting for new hearts die before receiving a transplant. and the Berlin Heart could reduce that number.

The device, also known as EXCOR, sits outside of the body and is connected to the heart and vessels by a pair of tubes. It takes some of the workload off the ventricles by taking blood from the atria and pumping it to the lungs and then the body.

But there's been little incentive for U.S. companies to invest in manufacturing these or going

where Turrentine is a surgeon.





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## **New Orleans drunk on its spirited past**

BY JANET MCCONNAUGHEY

The Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS - This city's liquid assets, from absinthe to iced tea, are getting a lot of attention these days.

The Louisiana State Museum has an exhibit of New Orleans beverages from bourbon to Bargs. A cocktail museum opened recently. A Southern Comfort Museum is in the works. And a group dedicated to the many cultures of Southern food is looking to collect oral histories from the city's bartenders

What does it all mean? "We make everything an art form," says Beverly Gianna. spokeswoman for the New Orleans Convention and Visitors Bureau. "I think the fact that we can take our food and beverage and have museums centered around that just emphasizes and underscores the joie de vivre of New Orleans. Our great spirit. Or spirits,"

But then, you might expect liquor exhibits and bartender history in a city where a top attraction is Bourbon Street, OK, it's named after some old French rulers. But they're not around any more. Bars are. The 13 blocks of Bourbon Street include at least 20 bars and cocktail lounges.

"There's a lot of interesting scholarship about cocktails and New Orleans," says Amy Evans, who is looking for bartenders to interview later this month. She cited Kerri McCaffety's photographic history book "Obituary Cocktail: The Great Saloons of New Orleans.

"Bartenders are the keepers of history and tradition and gossip and lore that is really a mother lode," Evans says.

This is the latest of several oral history projects she's done for the Southern Food ways Alliance, an affiliate of the University of Mississippi's Center for the Study of Southern Culture

The project is sponsored by Southern Comfort, which hasn't been made here for more than a century. But its label shows a mansion only an hour or so from the French Quarter, where a New Orleans bartender created the recipe 130 years ago.

Martin Wilkes Heron developed the drink in 1874, according to Brown-Forman Corp., which counts Southern Comfort among its 34 or 35 liquor and wine brands

Heron didn't work on Bourbon Street but nearby, at a long-vanished joint called Mc-Cauley's Saloon. The drink's original name was "Cuffs and Buttons" — a nod to a popular New Orleans drink called "White Tie and Tails," says Paul Tuell, Brown-Forman's brand director for Southern Comfort.

About all Tuell knows about that drink is its name, and a reasonable guess about the main ingredient, "All of them were, at that point, whiskey based," he says

"A Toast of New Orleans: A Salute to the Beverages of the City," which opened this past week, goes well beyond alcohol. Its topic is any drink created in or connected



Elizabeth Williams, president of the Southern Food and Beverage Museum, stands before an exhibit featuring non-alcoholic and intoxicating beverages in New Orleans last year.

to the city, including soft drinks such as Barg's root beer, which went national when Coca Cola Co. bought it; iced tea (often written without its "d"), coffee with chicory and cafe au lait. Then there's all the alcohol, including the 13 breweries which once operated here, and the "go cup" - plastic cups kept at bars so that if you leave without finishing, you can take it with you.

The Southern Food and Beverage Museum put it up in donated space at the Riverwalk mall: this showing is in the Old U.S. Mint at the edge of the French Quarter.

Bloody Mary enthusiasts may want to make plans to visit the Tabasco Museum, set to open next year a few blocks from the French Quarter in the city's Arts/Ware-

"My great-grandfather Edmund McIlhenny was part of the Americanization of New Orleans. Coincidentally, it's in part of the city he helped build," said Paul McIl-henny, chief executive of Tabasco maker McIlhenny Co.



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### Daytona complex reveals new era of biker hangouts

house District.

BY MIKE SCHNEIDER The Associated Press

ORMOND BEACH, Fla. -

as gamblers have Las Vegas and theme park junkies have Orlando, bikers soon will have Destination Daytona

The 150-acre complex, as envi sioned by its developers, will

have condominiums, hotel rooms, a Harley-Davidson dealership, a motorcycle maintenance school, a

bars and a civic The project reflects the changing demographics of bikers. In the past two decades.

motorcycle parts

shop, restaurants,

motorcycling has attracted wealthier, older people and more women, and they no longer settle for the usual tent lodgings and souvenir T-shirts at

biker gatherings. Although Daytona Beach and surrounding communities have long been biker havens, there never has been a self-contained complex with so many biker-relat-

"People have more discretionary income and want to enjoy their motorcycles and want to enjoy their nice hotel and aren't afraid to spend money to do that, said John Parham, owner of J&P Cycles, which sells motorcycle parts and will open a store at Destination Daytona

ed venues in one place.

Many motorcyclists these days are middle-aged "guvs or gals

who might have ridden in the 1970s and really liked it but then had a family," said Mike Mount, a spokesman for the Motorcycle In-dustry Council. "Now that the kids are gone and they have more disposable income, they have motorcycles back on the want list."

The first phase of Destination

Daytona opens in June, but it has

gotten plenty of at-tention at this 44 This is like. year's Bike Week, the gathering of hundreds of thou-sands of motorcy-Fantasuland. clists in the Daytona Beach area last a Disneuland

for motorcucle "This is like if not a Fantasyland, enthusiasts. a Disneyland for motorcycle enthusiasts.' said Jim Betlach,

who works for biker

Jim Betlach Paisano Publications

if not a

magazine publisher Paisano Publications The \$50 million project was the brainchild of Bruce Rossmeyer. owner of 10 Harley-Davidson

dealerships He plans to offer to fly custom-

ers down to Daytona Beach, put them up at a hotel at Destination Daytona, feed them, sell them bikes, take them on short rides to either St. Augustine or Walt Disney World and then fly them back. Several days later, their Harleys would be delivered to their homes.

"Today, it's like doctors and at-torneys," Rossmeyer said. "They come out. They don't

shave for a week. They've got their pressed jeans and Gucci shoes and they think they're bikers. But they're out having fun.



A&E. GRB/A

Alyson, a drug addict, prepares to get high in an episode of A&E's reality show "Intervention."

## **Reality shows** depending on vice for topics

BY LYNN ELBER The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES - Smokers struggling to kick the dangerous habit. The obese aching to shed life-threatening fat. Drug abus-ers, gamblers and shopaholics challenged to get control of shattered lives.

That's entertainment in the world of AddicTV

Networks have found there is wrenching drama in putting human weakness and the fight to overcome it on camera

"Cold Turkey," beginning its second season on Pax this week in the States, gathers 10 smokers on the pretext they've been cast in a reality adventure show. Then they learn the cold truth: there's a contest and a cash prize, but to win they must give up cigarettes without aids.

Players on NBC's "The Biggest Loser," now in production for its second season, know just what they're in for and get help in the form of personal trainers and diet guidance

But, like lab rats left in the care of a bored technician, the shows toy with their subjects. On "Cold Turkey," a sexy blonde and frat boys are brought in to blow smoke, literally, at contestants whose nerves and willpower are frayed. "The Biggest Loser" makes fattening food easily available and dares players to resist

The rationale is that the outside world contains temptations, so the shows should, too. Accepting that requires one to believe that networks are more interested in salving wounds than in earning

That unlikelihood isn't a hindrance to the self-important tone that infuses the shows.

"Ultimately, they're fighting for something much bigger than a cash prize," says a sanctimonious Mother Love, who serves as host of a "Cold Turkey" reunion show.

"cuchi cuchi" Charo - visiting the valiant "Cold Turkey" war-riors and advising them, "You are about to be heroes" and, "You are fighting a cause not only for you, but for millions of people.'

Could a class of programs that at first glance seems so clearly eyploitive be defensible? To hear those with the most at stake tell it,

In the first season of "Cold Tur-"lung cancer victim Deborah Taylor met with contestants and implored them to end the habit that would ultimately prove fatal for her

"She kept saving she was very proud she had done that. ... She was proud that she may have made a difference for some people," her doctor recounts in a reunion show

Alyson sees it that way. The former drug abuser is among those featured in A&E's new series "Intervention," in which addicts get a shot at recovery after revealing how far they have fall-

"I would do it again in a heartbeat," she said of the documentary program.

Alyson, 27, agreed to take part because she figured the only thing she had left was a caution-

ary tale.
"I thought I was going to end up dying anyway, so I might as well have done something before

I checked out " But each addict is surprised by loved ones who gather, with a professional "interventionist," to per-

suade them to enter therapy With this series there is real potential for an amazing personal transformation each week." A&E documentary programming exec-utive Nancy Dubuc said. "If the intervention doesn't succeed, viewers will still be witness to a portrait of the unrelenting power of addiction

### Federal court upholds most FCC phone number-switching rules

BY GENARO C. ARMAS The Associated Press

WASHINGTON - A federal court on Friday upheld the bulk of Federal Communications Commission rules that allow consumers to keen their phone numbers when they switch providers.

However, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia ruled that smaller traditional phone companies didn't have to honor customer requests to transfer a landline number to a cell

The court said the agency needed to study further the impact of the new rules on small companies before the guidelines could go back into effect in those cases. The companies, which serve mainly rural areas, can still voluntarily switch home numbers to a cell phone.

One consumer group said the decision might affect companies that serve as much as 10 percent of the U.S. population, or more than 29 million peo-

"We hope the FCC will go back and fill in the

record and help consumers in small, rural markets have the flexibility to take their numbers to the pro-vider of their choice," said Gene Kimmelman, senior policy director at Consumers Union, the pub-

lisher of Consumer Reports magazine.
FCC Chairman Michael Powell said he was confident the agency would respond quickly to the court's request

The ruling was one of two decisions from the appeals court Friday involving the FCC's num-ber-switching rules. The court upheld the remainder of those rules

Powell, who is leaving the agency this month, praised the decisions overall as "a big win for competition and wireless consumers

According to the FCC, roughly 10 million cell customers have transferred their numbers to new providers since the rules went into effect in November 2003.Consumer advocates predicted the changes would lead to lower prices, better service and more options for phone customers. Many customers had been reluctant to switch service because it required changing numbers they had given to relatives, friends and business associates.



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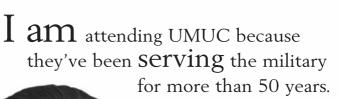
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#### IN THE WORLD



Donald Tsang, center, is surrounded with security guards as he arrives at Hong Kong government headquarters Thursday. Tsang is replacing the much-maligned Tung Chee-hwa as the leader of Hong Kong. Chee-hwa quit two days ago, citing failing health.

## Tsang takes over as Hong Kong's leader

BY WILLIAM FOREMAN The Associated Press

HONG KONG — Donald Tsang, a popular bow tie-wearing career civil servant, took over as Hong Kong's leader Saturday, facing the tough task of pleasing a public that wants more democracy while obeying Communist Chinese rulers who have opposed calls for greater freedom

Tsang became Hong Kong's second leader since the former British colony returned to Chinese rule eight years ago. He replaces the much-maligned Tung Chee-hwa, who quit two days ago citing failing health.

Wearing one of his trademark bow ties, Tsang told a news conference that he was grateful to Tung "for his selfless leader-

hip." Tsang said all the Cabinet members have asked to continue serving and that he would be the acting leader until a new one is elected on July 10. Under the law, the leader is elected by an 800-member committee, dominated by people loyal to Beijing.

Tsang declined to say whether he planned to run in the election, though he's widely expected to. He said the elected leader would serve until the next originally scheduled election in 2007.

He faces some serious challenges, including leading a Cabinet

es, including leading a Cabinet that might contain back-stabbing politicians who want his job, analysts said.

Tsang's policies might also be

thwarted by pro-Beijing lawmakers who distrust him. Democracy groups might pressure him for more freedom, while China might demand that he show his loyalty by blocking political reforms.

## British parliament OKs controversial terror law

BY JILL LAWLESS The Associated Press

LONDON — Britain's governing Labour Party claimed victory Saturday for pushing through its contentious anti-terrorism law after an acrimonious two-day debate in Parliament. The opposition said it had forced the government to make kev changes to the

"The British public will not be impressed with the way this government has made such a muddle and mess of what is possibly one of the most important bills of modern times," said David Davis, home-affairs spokesman for the opposition Conservative Party.

Ten suspects who had been detained without trial for up to three years — including a radical preacher accused of links to al-Qaida — were free, although they faced "control orders" imposing a nighttime curfew and strict restrictions on their activities. Prime Minister Tony Blair won the support of Parliament for the Prevention of Terrorism Bill on Friday, after one of the longest and bitterest standoffs in recent Parliamentary history.

The law allows terrorist suspects to be put under house arrest or curfew or electronically tagged without charge or trial.

The main opposition Conservatives had opposed the legislation, saying it would infringe civil liberties and demanding a so-called sunset clause guaranteeing that the law would expire a year after being passed. The government claimed such an amendment would send a message that Britain was soft on terrorism.

To break the deadlock, Blair eventually agreed to a timetable for Parliament to review and amend the law and promised Parliament time to draft more wide ranging legislation later in the year. The Conservatives said that was a sunset clause in all but name.

# Iran says it will continue to pursue nuke program

## U.S. threats, policy shifts unsuccessful

BY NASSER KARIMI The Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran — Neither threats nor incentives will alter Iran's pursuit of its nuclear program, the Irania foreign ministry said Saturday, defying new moves by the European Union and the United States to ensure Tehran never develons a nuclear bomb.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Hamid Reza Asefi rejected overtures from the West, saying Iran would not be influenced by external pressure. Iran maintains its nuclear program is solely for the beaceful bursuit of nuclear energy.

"Iran is determined to use peaceful nuclear technology and no pressure, incentive or threat can force Iran to give up its rights," state-run radio quoted Asefi as saying.

The show of bluster and defiance came a day after the Bush administration softened its stance on how to thwart Iran's suspected nuclear arms program, agreeing to support a European plan that offers economic incentives for the Tehran government to give up any weapons ambitions.

Washington also agreed to drop its opposition to Iran's membership of the World Trade Organization and allow some sale of spare parts for civilian aircraft. But Secretary of State Condolecza Rice signaled that Iran should move quickly or face the threat of harsh United Nations Security Council sanctions:

Asefi rejected Washington's move.
"Lifting some restrictions

against Iran will not stop Iran from pursuing its rights," Asefi said. Washington has accused Tehran of suing its civilian nuclear program as a cover to build a nuclear bomb and previously had insisted Iran deserves no reward for simply abiding by an international arms compact that forbids nuclear

weapons development.

Iran suspended its uranium enricente activities last year to create confidence in its negotiations
and avoid Security Council referal. But Tehran says maintaining
the voluntary freeze depends on
progress in ongoing talks with Britain, Germany and France, who are
negotiating on behalf of the European Union.

The Europeans want to get an Iranian commitment to scrap enrichment plans in exchange for economic aid, technical support and backing for Tehran's efforts to join mainstream international organizations.

Russia, meanwhile, welcomed the softening of the U.S. stance. Russia hopes U.S. actions will conform with "the line that both Russia and Western European countries are pursuing in efforts to remove all questions relating to the character of Iran's nuclear program on the basis of cooperation," Foreign Ministry spokesman Alexander Yakovenko said.



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### Three bodies found after Europe avalanches

SALZBURG, Austria - Rescuers on Friday found the bodies of three tourists from Denmark the Netherlands and Germany killed by senarate avalanches in different ski resorts, police said Mountain rescuers found the body of a 47-year-old Danish man Friday, the Austria Press Agency reported, citing police. He was buried under about three feet of snow near the resort of St. Johann, some 40 miles south of Salzburg.

The rescuers said the avalanche had been triggered by the victim.

The man had been reported missing after he did not return to his hotel Thursday evening. He had been skiing with his nephews until the middle of the day Thursday, when the group became separated.

In the western province of Tyrol, authorities on Friday found the body of a snowboarder who had been swept away by an avalanche a day earlier, APA reported. The 23-year-old German had been boarding in Achenkirch, located about 25 miles northeast of Innsbruck.

Also Friday, a 21-year-old Dutch snowboarder died after being caught in avalanche in Zillertal, in Tyrol. Rescuers found the body of the tourist, who was carrying an avalanche transmitter, about 30 minutes after the snow slide went off.

So far this season, avalanches in Austria's Alps have killed 32 people, far more than last season's unusual low of eight. On average, snow slides in Austria kill about two dozen people each year.



Unidentified defendants, center, are brought by police officers to the courthouse Thursday in Angers, France, where 66 people are on trial for allegedly prostituting children for food and money.

## **Grim testimony** given at France pedophilia trial

BY STEPHANIE LACAZE The Associated Press

ANGERS, France - Defendants painted a grim picture of family torment Friday during a pedophilia trial where one woman said she had been raped by her adoptive father and attempted to explain why she never reported the abuse of her own

It was the second day of ques-tioning of some of the 66 people accused of involvement in the rape, sexual abuse and prostitution of children — some too young to walk - in this city some 165 miles southwest of Paris.

Investigators say 45 children between the ages of 6 months and 14 years - were abused by their parents or their acquaintances from 1999 to 2002, in some cases in exchange for small amounts of money, food, cigarettes or alco-

The defendants, expressing themselves with difficulty, offered little insight into their actions or into the dynamics of a group ensnared in a pattern of child abuse and pedophilia passed on from one generation to the next

cia M said she had been an abandoned child and as a little girl had been raped by her adoptive fa ther. Now she stands accused of raping, sexually abusing, corrupt-

ing and prostituting children.
She could face 20 years' imprisonment. Under French law, she, like other defendants, can only be identified by a first name and initial to preserve the anonymity of

the alleged child victims. Patricia's adoptive father, 60-year-old Jean-Claude M., contested her testimony about him, insisting Friday that he treated her as a natural daughter. Jean-Claude M. was convicted in 2001 of sexual abuse of his grand-daughter, Marine.

The former husband of Patricia M., her father-in-law and her adoptive father are among the defendants, all testifying Thursday

and Friday.
Patricia M. was convicted in 2003 of failure to report the abu of her own children, but on Friday attempted to justify her reti-

cence.

"It's because M.V. frightened
me that I said nothing," Patricia
M. said of her former husband,

#### Germany tightens anti-Nazi laws to block march

BERLIN - Parliament on Friday tightened laws against neo-Nazi demonstrations, seeking to block a planned far-right march on the 60th anniversary of the Nazis' surrender and permanently shield the nearby national Holocaust memorial in Berlin

The bill cited a "steady rise in far-right gatherings that ... resemble ever more the character of the Nazi regime's marches.

Germany already has extensive laws combating neo-Nazi propaganda and banning the display of Nazi symbols. But plans by the far-right National Democratic Party to march at the Brandenburg Gate and one block from the Holocaust memorial on May 8 have raised alarm among politicians and the Jewish community.

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From The Associated Press

## Thousands flood ailing pope with e-mail

BY WILLIAM J. KOLE The Associated Press

VATICAN CITY - He pre sides over an organization with two millennia of history, but Pope John Paul II is like anyone who's been away from the office for a while: His e-mail is piling up.

The Vatican says it's logged more than 10 000 e-mails in English alone for the pope, who is recovering at a Rome hospital from throat surgery to ease his second breathing crisis in a month. The Vatican said Saturday that the early this week.

More than 6,000 e-mails in Spanish have streamed into the none's in-box, along with thousands of others in various languages, the Vatican said.

"As far as the content, the common denominator is not only the good wishes but personal memories and episodes of life recounted by those who have been stirred by the words of the pope and his testimony of faith," Vatican Radio reported this week.

"The closeness expressed to the pope is coming from every



Pope John Paul II uses a computer to send a special message to ops in Oceania via Internet during an audience in the Clement Hall at the Vatican in November 2001. The Vatican says the pope has received thousands and thousands of e-mails from across the globe expressing support for his recovery from throat surgery.

part of the world," it said, "The

flow of messages doesn't stop. The Vatican won't say how much — if any — e-mail the 84-year-old pontiff actually reads or responds to, but John Paul seems comfortable with the medium. In 2001, sitting in the Vatican's frescoed Clementine Hall he used a laptop to tap out an apology for Roman Catholic missionary abuses against indigenous peoples of the South Pacific.

"The pope sees some of the

messages, but I don't know how many," hospital spokesman Nicola Cerbino said Tuesday, "All the messages that are received by the pope get an official response

More time-honored expres-sions of affection and support such as letters, telegrams and poems also have poured in for the pope. This week, the Vatican reeased letters and drawings sent by Italian third-graders, who drew a smiling pope waving a cane and pictures of the pontiff in

his hospital bed. Even prisoners have been writing to the pope. The pope on several occasions has relayed his thanks "for all those signs of affection that have reached me" since he was rushed by ambulance back to Rome's Ge-

melli Polyclinic hospital on Feb. 24 for an operation to insert a breathing tube in his windpipe.

The Vatican says it expects John Paul to be released from the hospital by Palm Sunday, March

20. On Friday, the Vatican re-leased a video with the pope speaking, the first time the pontiff has been heard publicly since a throat operation last month to help him breathe

The video was taken of a mee ing Friday with Tanzanian prelates in the pope's hospital room. He says a few words in a husky voice, including va bene. Italian

for "OK." The 84-year-old pontiff is shown seated during a Mass with the prelates

His voice reciting a prayer is barely audible.

The two - Cardinal Polycarp Pengo and Bishop Severine Niwemugizi - are shown telling him in English that Tanzanians are praying for him and love him.

He responded with the two Ital ian words. The meeting was an indication

that the frail pontiff was stepping up his activities before returning to the Vatican.

John Paul has taken a cautious approach to e-mail and the Internet, speaking out against the proliferation of online pornography and hate speech and the industry's need to police itself and meet the "ethical and spiritual challenges" raised as communications technology evolves.

Does the pope get spam? The Vatican won't say.

### Italians restore a rare fresco portrait of Dante

44 This fresco

shows a

different face

compared to

the one we

used to know

from

Renaissance

traditional

iconoaraphu.

Monica Donato

Art historian

and professor at

Parma University

BY MARTA FALCONI The Associated Press

ROME - A prominent nose and severe expression were believed to be among his most distin guishing features, but Dante Alighieri might now show a different face to posterity.

A seven-month restoration has stripped layers of grime and re-vealed the splendor of a 17th-century frescoed nortrait that art historians believe might most ancient of the medieval poet who wrote the "Divine Come. dv

Monica nato, an art historian and professor at Parma University, is among the experts who have studied the "We identified

the portrait as Dante's thanks to archive documentation, as well as manuscripts and drawings," Donato said

"It is certainly the most antique documented portrait of the medieval noet The fresco shows a quite short

man in profile, with a dark complexion, prominent lower lip and a long nose. "This fresco shows a different

face compared to the one we used to know from Renaissance traditional iconography," Donato said. The most eve-catching difference, she said, is the poet's nose. his best-known feature, which is traditionally portrayed as large

and hooked "In the Renaissance, he was pictured as a serious-looking figure, even surly," Doeven surly,"

nato said "In these frescos he doesn't have such marked traits and he generally looks more relaxed."

life-sized frescos, including samples of Petrarca and Boccaccio, are set in moon-shaped lunettes in the vaulted ceiling of the "Arte dei Giudici e Notai" (Judges and Notaries Art) hall, a building that hosted one of the governing bodies in medieval Flo-

rence. Visitors tourists will soon be able to look directly at Dante's face and perhaps even dine beneath it.

Umberto Montano, owner of the Alle Muratte restaurant in Florence, is planning to move his restaurant into the building's hall. "I commissioned and funded

this restoration because I was looking for a better venue for my restaurant and such a prestigious spot might be just ideal," he said.

"We will be the guardians of this wonderful artistic and historical heritage."



Young Hercules beetles are seen at the lab of German Viasus, Colombia's only beetle exporter, in Tunia, Colombia, recently. Fully grown, the giant beetles are exported to Asia as exotic pets, and to museums, scientists and collectors in Europe.

### Beetles become valued commodity

The Associated Press

TUNJA, Colombia - University student German Viasus was researching ways to speed the natural decomposition of chicken bones when he came across what has become one of Colombia's

weirdest exports.

Viasus found 56 tiny, pearl-like eggs nestled in a pile of rotting wood as he searched for bugs that could break down the tons of bage dumps in an environmental-

chicken bones in the nation's garly safe manner. He didn't know what would hatch from the eggs, but became attached to them as he waited.

"I took care of those eggs as if they were my babies," he recalls. The eggs finally hatched, producing larvae that grew into the sam-urai of insects — a fierce-looking beetle that is one of the largest in the world

Known as Dynastes Hercules. the beetles are found only in Central and South America. Fully grown, the males measure up to 6.75 inches long, boasting saber-like horns. The females are about half that size

After making the discovery five years ago, Viasus found the bugs were worthless for breaking down chicken bones. Still, he thought he might be able to make something out of them.

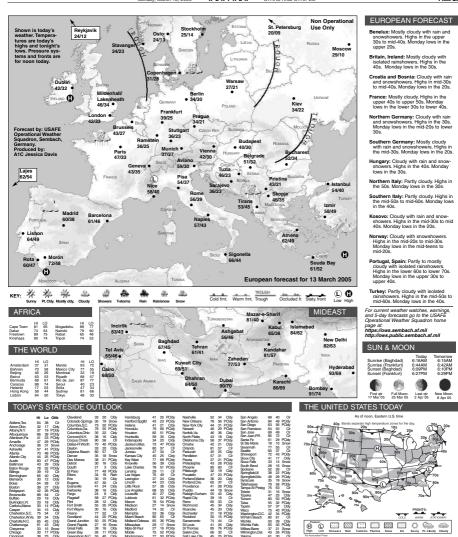
He built a laboratory and breeding center on a hillside outside Tunja, a city 80 miles northeast of the capital, Bogota. Marked by a roadside billboard with a picture of a flying Hercules beetle, the whole facility is just under a half

One day, a group of visiting Japanese businessman saw the beetles and became wildly enthusiastic. "All they kept saying was 'pretty, pretty, pretty!" "Viasus says. So he hatched the notion of exporting the fierce-looking creatures to Asia and Europe.

Live male Hercules beetles sell for around \$130 apiece, while preserved dead specimens sell for slightly less. Live females go for between \$40 and \$50, with dead ones also selling for less.

The live beetles are shipped in small, clear plastic containers to Japan, China and Thailand, where they are sought as exotic pets. Dead ones are sent to collectors, museums and scientists in Europe.

Under Colombian law, Viasus Colombia's only registered beetle exporter - says he is allowed to export a maximum of 300 live beetles and 100 dead beetles a month, to avoid endangering the species





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#### **Fumigation overload**

STAMFORD — Several tenants had to stay in a temporary shelter and a hotel because of a land-lord's attempt to fumigate a 10-family home.

The landlord apparently touched off 40 cans of the cockroach fumigate at the same time.

"One can is plenty," Dr. Johnnie Lee, the city's health director, who spent much of the day setting up a temporary shelter for tenants.

The incident forced about a dozen of the building's 50 tenants to spend the day across the street at the International School at Rogers Magnet School, health and fire officials said.

#### **Drought emergency**

WA OLYMPIA — Gov. Christine Gregoire declared a statewide drought emergency, anticipating what weather forecasters predict will be the Pacific Northwest's worst dry spell in nearly three decades.

Gregoire made her announcement before an audience of farmers in the already arid Yakima Valley. The last statewide drought emergency was declared by Gov. Gary Locke in 2001. In the declaration, Gregoire cre-

In the declaration, Gregoire creates an interstate agency to coordinate the government's response, calls for \$8.2 million more indrought-related state appropriations and orders the National Guard to prepare to combat wild-fires this summer.

#### Movie bill fails

General Law Committee decided not to vote on a bill that would have forced theaters to print the start times of both the previews and the movie. State Rep. Andrew Fleischmann said he heard from dozens of moviegoers who support the bill. He plans to reintroduce the measure next year.

#### Alcoholism drug tested

AK JUNEAU — Yale University researchers are working with health officials in southeast Alaska on a study of how to treat alcoholism with the drug naltrexone. Naltrexone blocks the effects of drugs in the class that includes morphine and heroin.

Researchers have found naltrexone can also treat the effects of alcoholism.

#### Baseball subway service

DC WASHINGTON — The city's subway system is adding \$1.2 million to its fiscal 2005 budget to cover extra service during the Washington Nationals debut season. But if a game ends after the subway closes, transit of ficials said, the baseball team would have to pay the extra cost to keep Metro open. So far, Metro doesn't have an agreement with the Nationals.

#### Buses go with ethanol

NE LINCOLN — The public buses in Nebraska's capital will be the first in the United



States fueled with an ethanol diesel blend, known as O2Diesel, Mayor Coleen Seng said. About three-fourths of the fleet has already converted to the blend.

ROUNDUP

Ethanol is big business in Nebraska, with 25 percent of the current corn crop being used to produce the fuel.

#### Redrawing district lines

GA ATLANTA — The state House approved a new set of congressional districts, rearranging the 13 districts passed in 2001 when Democrats ram state government. If approved by the Senate and Gov. Sonny Perdue, the new districts could be in place by the 2006 elections. Georgia has seven Republicans and six Democrats in the U.S. House.

#### Hair-braiding tangle

JACKSON — To hear one side tell it, African hair braiding is an art passed down through generations, a form of expression that shouldn't be hampered by bureaucratic licensing.

The other side argues the practice needs to be regulated so braiders will learn to prevent the spread of scalp diseases.

Now, state lawmakers across the United States are trying to untangle the issue.



#### Dragon dance

Cynthia Worthington, 18, a freshman from Piedmont, S.C., smiles as she gets a first-time look from inside a dragon dance costume at the first Clemson University Asian New Year Celebration at the Outdoor Theater in Clemson, S.C. Tennessee state Sen. Steve Cohen filed a bill at the request of a constituent who braids.

"The cosmetologists want to keep the hair braiders down," Cohen charged. "It's not a health and sanitation issue. It's control. It's ower."

In Mississippi, however, many cosmetologists say it's unfair to exempt a small group from licensing.

#### Pot charges for teacher

CA FRESNO — Christopher or Bochin, a substitute teacher, was arrested for allegedly smoking marijuana with students at Fresno High School. Bochin, 22, allegedly asked two students to get the marijuana and drug parapheraila out of his car before smoking felony charges of furnishing marijuana to minors and misdemeanor charges of contributing to the delinquency of minors.

#### Rash death charges

PA JOHNSTOWN—The mother and grandmother of a toddler who died in December face criminal charges for allegedly neglecting his severe diaper rash, leading to a fatal infection.

Amy Livingston, 27, of Johnstown, was charged with involuntary manslaughter and child endangerment in the Dec. 12 death of her 15-month-old son, Harley. She was charged with a second count of child endangerment because another son, 3-year-old Hunter, also had severe diaper rash, authorities said.

#### Miss Hawaiiin court

HI HONOLULU — A former Miss Hawaii USA was given a chance to have drug charges against her dropped if she completes a residential drug treatment program and stays out of trouble for five vears.

Circuit Judge Richard Perkins granted a request to defer Tiffini Limahai's guilty pleas to charges of possessing crystal methamphetamine and drug paraphernalia.

Limahai and her husband, John Limahai Jr., were arrested Sept. 14 in a police raid at their Kailua home.

Police said they found about \$1,000 worth of ice, small quantities of rock cocaine and marijuana, and a digital scale in a backpack that Limahai was seen discarding.

City Deputy Prosecutor Marvin Rampey opposed the defense request for deferral and asked that Limahai be sentenced to one year in jail.

#### No pies at the polls

MS ECRU — Mayoral candidate Ivonne Whitehead stopped giving away tasty treats after being accused of using pies Whitehead said her baking isn't about politics, it's about "my personal life." The Mississippi attorney general's office told Whitehead she can give away her baked goods only to friends, senior citizens and the sick. She can also bake treats for children's birthday parties.



Cuban rhythm Dancers Yoandra Martinez, left, and Dennis Bain of the Havana Night Club dance troupe from Cuba, perform in Coral Gables, Fla. The group, made up of over 50 singers, dancers and musicians, defected to the United States in Las Vezas Iast November.



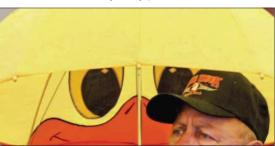
Moosefest promotion A moose sculpture promoting the upcoming "Moosefest" in Bennington, Vt., stands outside the Vermont Statehouse in Montpelier, Vt.



Surprise, surprise! Sgt. Andy Peace holds his daughter, Samantha Peace, 3, after surprising her at the United Methodist Children's Learning Center in Houma, La. Sgt. Peace had been in Iraq since July.



Feeding time John Kloer takes time to feed bread to the ducks and geese in Franke Park during a late-winter snow flurry in Fort Wayne, Ind.



Ducky weather A biker stands in the pouring rain under the protection of his duck umbrella at the Cabbage Patch in Samsula, Fla.



Volcanic reaction Scientists said that there have been no unusual events since a recent steamburst from the volcano sent an ash cloud 36,000 feet in the air.

#### Slow to collect her cash

IN INDIANAPOLIS — Barbara Lennen took her time being a multimillionaire.

The mother of four carried the winning ticket for a \$19.9-million Powerball jackpot in her wallet for two days after the drawing before checking the numbers.

Lennen, 28, bought the ticket at a convenience store near her Elwood home, but didn't look to see whether she had won until her father-in-law told her Monday night that the store had sold the jackpot winner for Saturday's drawing.

"I checked the Powerball numbers one at a time. I looked at it three times," she said after claiming the jackpot.

Lennen said after seeing that the numbers matched, she told her husband, "Don't get up. Our lives are changing. We just hit the Powerball."

#### School paper controversy

FULLERTON — The American Civil Liberties Union urged a school district to reinstate a high school newspaper editor who was fired for publishing an article about three gay students.

School officials were wrong to remove student Ann Long from her shared post as editor in chief of Troy High School's newspaper in January, the American Civil Liberties Union of Southern California said in a letter to the local superintendent.

Long's Dec. 17 article in the Oracle chronicled the decisions of three students — two 18-year-olds and a 15-year-old — to reveal their homosexuality and bisexuality to family and friends. All three spoke to Long knowing their names would be used.

School officials have argued previously that Long needed parental permission before publishing the students' stories.

#### Worthless plunder

OH FOSTORIA — Thieves broke into an agency that serves the poor and made off with a safe. The only catch — the safe was empty.

"It is really quite comical," said Susan Simpkins, director of the Fostoria Bureau of Concern. "It was very heavy, and they did us a favor by taking it."

She said the agency had wanted to throw out the safe but it was too big to move.

The thieves did manage to grab a small amount of money from the office's petty cash supply, police said.

#### **DMV-jacking**

NORTH LAS VEGAS — Thieves rammed a vehicle through the back wall of a Nevada Department of Motor Vehicles office and stole 1,700 blank driver's licenses.

"This could be anything from a bunch of juveniles who want to be able to make IDs to buy beer, to major criminal activity or even terrorism," police spokesman Tim Bedwell said.

"We don't know what they took them for." The theft occurred in a remote

industrial area, authorities said. The thieves took blank licenses and laminated covers, a digital license camera, a camera computer and a license printer, DMV spokesman Kevin Malone said.

The equipment would not work without a connection to the DMV's mainframe computer, Malone said. "It would be very, very difficult to break the encryption," he said.

However, the officials said false information could be placed on blank licenses and covered with authentic laminates and holographic seals, making the fake licenses indistinguishable from the real thing.

#### Keeping up with traffic

NEW YORK — Hang on, Snoopy.

A mixed poodle who was caught running along the Major Deegan Expressway during rush hour underwent X-rays to make sure he hadn't suffered any serious injuries from his escapades, the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals said.

Aside from some abrasions and bruises from being hit by a car, the dog "so far seems to be doing great," ASPCA spokeswoman Jo Sullivan said. "It appears that he came out miraculously OK."

#### Tuition curveball

TX COLLEGE STATION — Texas A&M students who load up on classes could get a price break under a new proposal heading to the Board of Regents.

University President Robert Gates has proposed charging a flat rate for tuition, meaning students taking 12 hours or 18 hours would pay the same rate. Students taking 12 or more hours of classes would pay a 15-hour semester credit-hour rate.

Gates said graduating from A&M a semester early would save a student money.

a student money.

However, Corey Nichols, a member of the university's student senate, said he and other students are opposed to paying for classes they

#### Stranded hikers

aren't taking

TN GATLINBURG — Park rangers rescued four hikers who had become stranded in snow in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. One had to be airlifted to a hospital.

The sick hiker, Matthew Shultz, was in good condition after he was taken by helicopter to University of Tennessee Medical Center in Knoxville as a precaution, Great Smoky Mountains National Park spokesman Bob Miller said. He had been showing signs of hypothermia, including vomiting and slurred speech.

#### Using all resources

AR LITTLE ROCK — The old saw about meat-packing houses using everything but the squeal can apparently be applied to poultry as well — everything but the squawk.

Tyson Foods, the world's largest meat producer, is teaming up with a Massachusetts-based company in the hope of making a profit off chicken litter.

Since January 2004, Springdale-based Tyson has been talking with Regenerated Resources LLC, a company located in Framingham, Mass., to convert poultry byproducts into a commercial fertilizer.

Stories and photos from wire services

	AFRTS Television Schedule  Updated sports listings are available on the first Soverboard page in the sports section or AFN's Web site at http://myafin.dodmedia.cost.mil/							
	SUNDAY, MARCH 13, 2005							
	(AFN-FAMILY)	(AFN-MOVIE)	(AFN-EUROPE)	(AFN-KOREA)	(AFN-NEWS)	(AFN-SPORTS)	(SPECTRUM)	(AFN-PACIFIC)
9:00	House of Mouse Animaniacs Moby Dick.	(8:56) Movie ** * "The Ter- minator" (1984, Science Fic-	Movie ★★s "Tiger Cruise" (2004, Drama) Hayden Panet-	Andromeda "The Torment, the Release"	Headline News America's Black Forum	NASCAR Racing Busch Series Sam's Town 300. From Las	Latin Lifestyles Urban Style	Andromeda "The Torment, the Release"
9:30	Ed, Edd n Eddy	tion) Arnold Schwarzenegger, Linda Hamilton, Michael Biehn.	tiere, Bill Pullman.	Headline News	The Chris Matthews Show	Vegas Motor Speedway in Las	Fantasy Camp	Headline News
10:30	Fillmore "Test of the Tested"		SpongeBob SquarePants	ESPNews	Navy/Marine Corps News	Vegas. (Live)	Roker on the Road	ESPNews
11:00	A Walk in Your Shoes Planet's Funniest Animals	Movie ** "Predator" (1987) Amold Schwarzenegger. A	MotorWeek Fhert-Movies	Judging Amy "Christenings"	Big Story Weekend Edition With Rita Crosby	ĺ	Radical Sabbatical All-American Festivals	Judging Amy "Christenings"
11:30 12:00	NBA Inside Stuff	team is stalked by an inter-	Headline News	Movie * * "Murder in Green-	20/20	SportsCenter	The Suze Orman Show	Movie * * "National Securi-
12:30	Happy Days	galactic trophy hunter.	Army Newswatch	wich" (2002, Drama) Christo-	2020			ty" (2003) Martin Lawrence.
13:00	Movie ** "The Thirteenth Year" (1999, Fantasy) Chez	(:02) Movie *** "Twins" (1988) Arnold Schwarzenegger.	College Basketball Teams to Be Announced. (Live)	pher Meloni, Robert Forster.	Fox and Friends	PGA Golf Honda Classic Third Round. From the Country	Myth Busters "Explosive De- compression"	Two feuding security guards go after murderous thieves.
13:30 14:00	Starbuck, Justin Jon Ross.	A genetically enhanced man	De Arillounceu. (Live)	The Simpsons Headline News	Fox and Friends	Club at Mirasol in Palm Beach		Headline News
14:00	Movie "Can of Worms" (1999)	seeks his shortchanged twin.		Scrubs "My Big Mouth"	rox and rriends	Gardens, Fla. (Taped)	This Far by Faith: African- American Spiritual Journeys	Scrubs "My Big Mouth"
15:00	Voice of Malcolm McDowell, Michael Shulman	(2:55) Movie * * "Kinder-	SportsCenter	Meet the Press	CBS News Sunday Morning	1	Basic Training	Meet the Press
15:30	Doug (EI)	garten Cop" (1990, Comedy) Amold Schwarzenegger, Pene-	The Apprentice	America's Black Forum	1	Sports Reporters	Mail Call JAG "The Measure of Men"	America's Black Forum
16:00	The Wild Thornberrys	lope Ann Miller, Pamela Reed.	The Apprenace	Access Hollywood	Face the Nation	Sports Center	JAG THE MEASURE OF MET	Access Hollywood
17:00	The Fairly OddParents	True Hollywood Story	Andromeda "The Torment, the		Headline News		The Best Of	
17:30 18:00	Rugrats Spike is in trouble. The Jeff Corwin Experience		Release* Road to the Final Four (N)	ESPNews Sports	Navy/Marine Corps News Late Edition Primetime	College GameDay	Good Eats My Wife and Kids	ESPNews Sports
18:00	The Jen Corwin Experience		noau to the rinal rour (N)	Sports	Late Edition Printedine	College GallieDay	King of the Hill	Sports
19:00	America's Funniest Home	Movie * "I Am Sam" (2001,	College Basketball SEC Tour-	SportsCenter	1	College Basketball ACC Tour-	Hope & Faith	SportsCenter
19:30	Videos Everwood "For Every Action"	Drama) Sean Penn, Michelle Pfeiffer, Dakota Fanning. A	nament Final Teams TBA. From the Georgia Dome in At-	NASCAR Racing Nextel Cup	FOX News	nament Final Teams TBA. From the MCI Center in Wash-	All of Us "Catering" To Be Announced	NASCAR Racing Nextel Cup
20:00	Everwood For Every Action	mentally challenged man's daughter is taken away from	lanta. (Live)	Series UAW-Daimler Chrysler	FUX News	ington, D.C. (Live)	To be Amnounced	Series UAW-Daimler Chrysler
21:00	Joan of Arcadia 'Only Con-	him.		400. From Las Vegas Motor Speedway in Las Vegas. (Live)	FOX News	College Basketball Big 12	1	400. From Las Vegas Motor Speedway in Las Vegas. (Live)
21:30	nect"	(:27) Movie ** "The World Is Not Enough" (1999) Pierce	College Basketball Big Ten Tournament Final Teams	opecomay ar cas vegas: (circ)		Tournament Final Teams TBA. From Kemper Arena in		opecona) in East regas. (Enc)
22:00 22:30	The Cosby Show Home Improvement	Brosnan, Sophie Marceau.	TBA. From the United Center in		Meet the Press	Kansas City, Mo. (Live)	Friends Seinfeld "The Cadillac"	
23:00	Touched by an Angel "Living	Movie *** "Backdraft"	Chicago. (Live)		FNS with Chris Wallace	NCAA Women's Basketball	Saturday Night Live	
23:30	the Rest of My Life"	(1991, Drama) Kurt Russell.				Selection Special		
00:00	The Fairly OddParents	(11:00) Movie *** "Back-	College Basketball Teams to	MONDAY, MARCH 14, Play With Me Sesame	, 2005 Tim Russert	SportsCenter	The X-Files "The Sixth Extinc-	Play With Me Sesame
00:00	Rugrats	draft" (1991, Drama) Kurt Rus-	Be Announced. (Live)	Bear in the Big Blue House	IIIII nussert	Sportscenter	tion II: Amor Fati" (Part 2 of 2)	Bear in the Big Blue House
1:00	Nigel Marvin Specials "Meerkats" Meekrats	sell. Chicago firefighters work overtime to stop a mad arsonist.		Little Bill	People in the News	College Gamenight	Girlfriends "L.A. Bound"	Little Bill
1:30	America's Funniest Home	(:10) Movie * "I Am Sam"	ESPNews	Wheel of Fortune Dr. Phil	This Week		All of Us "Catering" The Amazing Race	Wheel of Fortune Dr. Phil
2:00	Videos	(2001, Drama) Sean Penn, Michelle Pfeiffer, Dakota Fan-	NBA Basketball Houston	Dr. Pilli	TITIS WEEK		The Amazing Nace	Dr. Pilli
3:00	Everwood "For Every Action"	Michelle Pfeiffer, Dakota Fan- ning A mentally challenged	Rockets at Sacramento Kings. From ARCO Arena in Sacra-	Oprah Winfrey	Dateline International	Sports		Oprah Winfrey
3:30 4:00	Joan of Arcadia "Only Con-	man's daughter is taken away from him	mento, Calif. (Live)	Headline News	CNN Prime Cuts		NCIS "Reveille" Gibbs finally comes face to face with Ari.	Headline News
4:00	nect'	(:37) Movie + + x "The World		Judge Judy	CNIN Prime Cuts		Seinfeld "The Cadillac"	Judge Judy
5:00	Sesame Street (EI)	ls Not Enough" (1999) Pierce Brosnan, Sophie Marceau.	Meet the Press	Access Hollywood	CNN Sunday Night	SportsCenter	Breathingspace Yoga	Access Hollywood
5:30 6:00	Barney & Friends (EI)	James Bond must protect a	Headline News	(:25) Guiding Light (:13) General Hospital	Larry King Live		Caribbean Workout Body Shaping	(:25) Guiding Light (:13) General Hospital
6:30	Clifford the Big Red Dog (EI)	murdered industrialist's daugh- ter.	ESPNews	(.13) deliciai riospiiai	' -		TIPical Mary Ellen	.,
7:00	Dragon Tales (EI)	Yasmine Bleeth Revealed	Play With Me Sesame	Larry King Live	60 Minutes		The View	Aladdin "Scare Necessities"
7:30 8:00	Bob the Builder The Wiggles "Zardo Zap"	Hollywood Backstories	Bear in the Big Blue House Little Bill	Mucha Lucha	Fox Magazine	SportsCenter	Emeril Live	ChalkZone (El) Mucha Lucha
8:30	Dora the Explorer	Entertainment Tonight	Wheel of Fortune	Mary-Kate and Ashley	I OX magazine		Lilletii Live	Kim Possible (EI)
9:00	Stanley	Movie "No Greater Love"	Dr. Phil	Jeopardy!	The Beltway Boys	Arena Football Regional Cov- erage Arizona Rattlers at	30-Minute Meals	Jeopardy!
9:30	Sagwa-Siamese Cat Arthur "1001 Dads." (El)	(1996, Drama) Kelly Rutherford, Chris Sarandon.	(9:46) Oprah Winfrey	Headline News ESPNews	Fox News Watch Bulls and Bears	Tampa Bay Storm or Chicago	Paula's Home Cooking Designers' Challenge	Headline News ESPNews
10:30	Reading Rainbow (EI)	(:45) Movie ** * "Diamonds	(:35) Guiding Light	Advisory Block	Cavuto on Business	Rush at Grand Rapids Ram- page. (Taped)	Fashion Emergency	Pacific Report
11:00	Sagwa-Siamese Cat	Are Forever" (1971, Adven- ture) Sean Connery, Jill St.		60 Minutes	Forbes		The Soup	60 Minutes
11:30 12:00	Stanley Dora the Explorer	John, Lana Wood. James Bond	(:17) General Hospital Headline News	Without a Trace "Wannabe"	Cashin' In Dateline NBC	SportsCenter	The King of Queens That '70s Show "Drive-In"	Without a Trace "Wannahe"
12:00	The Wiggles	battles a space-crazy villain.	Judge Judy			oporto de liter	Girlfriends "Just Dessert"	
13:00	Bob the Builder	Movie *** "Gigi" (1958) Maurice Chevalier, Leslie Caron.	Today Kelly Clarkson; Allison DuRois	ER Dr. Carter slips into a dan- gerous and lonely depression.	American Morning	<u> </u>	Charmed Paige accidentally switches hodies with Phoebe	ER Dr. Carter slips into a dan- gerous and lonely decression.
13:30 14:00	Dragon Tales (EI) Blue's Clues "Thankful"	A young Parisienne is groomed	Dubois.	perous and lonely depression.  Pacific Report		PGA Golf Honda Classic Fi- nal Round. From the Country	Strong Medicine	perous and ionery depression.  Pacific Report
14:30	Barney & Friends (EI)	to become a courtesan.		The Tonight Show With Jay	•	Club at Mirasol in Palm Beach Gardens, Fla. (Taped)		The Tonight Show With Jay
15:00	Funniest Home Videos	(:10) Movie *** "Tap" (1989) Gregory Hines, Sammy	Aladdin "Scare Necessities"	Leno	]	Galuella, I la. (lapeu)	Any Day Now "Three Lucky Ladies on the Line"	Leno
15:30	Growing Pains Pokémon	Davis Jr. An ex-con is torn be-	ChalkZone (EI) Mucha Lucha	Late Show With David Letter- man	FOX News		Third Watch "He Said/She	Late Show With David Letter-
16:00	Yu-Gi-Oh!	tween crime and tap dancing.	Kim Possible (EI)	The Late Late Show With	TOX NEWS	NBA Fastbreak	Said'	The Late Late Show With
17:00	Doug "Doug's Patti Beef"	Access Hollywood	Jeopardy!	Craig Ferguson	FOX News	SportsCenter	Law & Order "Judge Dread"	Craig Ferguson
17:30 18:00	The Wild Thornberrys The Fairly OddParents	Entertainment Tonight	Headline News ESPNews	Dennis Miller	FOX News	1	The Simpsons	Dennis Miller
18:00	Rugrats "Graham Canyon"	Lanca dilililent ronight	Headline News	Countdown With Keith Olber-	1	NBA Fastbreak	Everybody Loves Raymond	Countdown With Keith Olber-
19:00	Lizzie McGuire	Movie ** * "Secondhand	60 Minutes	mann	Dateline NBC	MLB Preseason Baseball At-	The Dead Zone "Instinct" John-	mann
19:30	The Brothers Garcia Smallville "Lineage" A woman	Lions" (2003) Michael Caine. A teen hears fantastic tales from	Without a Trace "Wannabe"	Access Hollywood Headline News	FOX News	lanta Braves at St. Louis Cardi- nals. From Roger Dean Stadi-	ny investigates animal behavior.	Access Hollywood Headline News
20:00	claims to be Clark's mother.	his great-uncles.	without a frace "wannabe"	Headline News Entertainment Studios.com	FUA NEWS	um in Jupiter, Fla. (Live)		Headline News Entertainment Studios.com
21:00	Boy Meets World	(:04) Movie ** * "Election"	ER Dr. Carter slips into a dan-	The Hot List	Studio B With Shepard Smith	1	Monster House 'Hollywood	The Hot List
21:30	Boy Meets World	(1999) Matthew Broderick. A teacher tries to take a student	gerous and lonely depression. Headline News	Headline News	Your World With Neil Cavuto	1st & 10	House" Friends	Headline News
22:00	The Cosby Show Home Improvement	overachiever down a peg.	Headline News The Tonight Show With Jay	Good Morning America	your world With Neil Cavuto	1st & 10 The Hot List	Friends Seinfeld "The Cadillac"	Good Morning America
23:00	Touched by an Angel "Steal-	Movie *** "Tombstone"	Leno		Connected: Coast to Coast	Around the Horn	Seinfeld "The Caddy"	
23:30	ing Home"	(1993, Western) Kurt Russell.	Late Show-Letterman			Pardon the Interruption	Blind Date	

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## Walter Scott's Personality

Want the facts? Oninions? Truth? Write Walter Scott. Box 5001. Grand Central Station. New York, N.Y. 10163-5001. Full name will be used unless otherwise reque

Paula Abdul pouts and acts like a child when she doesn't Paula Abdul pours and acts line a chill and a chill

bratty? - Jack Novascone, Kenosha, Wis. A There's nothing real about "reality" shows. She denies it, but we think Abdul's spoiled-child act is just that — an act scripted by the show's writers to boost ratings. Now, viewers tune in not only to hear screeching amateurs but also to hear Paula screeching at nasty Simon Cowell.

Q Doesn't Hilary Swank's depiction of a boxer in "Million Dollar Baby" promote the defeminization of women? Mia Spengler, New York, N.Y.

AYes — but that's not the main reason we re against work en's boxing. In our opinion, no matter how hard women train, their bodies are not made to withstand the brutal pun-Yes - but that's not the main reason we're against womishment meted out in the ring, and they are more susceptible to irreversible injuries than men. We disagree with USA Boxing's decision to lift its ban on women in the sport in 1993

On her last episode as Serena on "Law & Order," Elisa-beth Röhm asks if she was fired because she's a lesbian. Was she? Can you tell me about her replacement? - Conrad H., Boise, Idaho

The new assistant D A is Annie Parisse 31 hest known A The new assistant D.A. is Annie I arise, 27, 28, as homicidal Julia Lindsey for four years on the soap "As the World Turns." Röhm, 28, says she secretly knew Serena was a lesbian. If so, she and producer Dick Wolf hid it from the rest of us: Serena's private life was never dis-cussed until that out-of-left-field final episode. We call that had writing.

QYour item on Rebecca Romijn made me wonder how John Stamos is doing since their split. — Judith Meredith, Clinton, Tenn.

Astamos, 41, seems determined to earn the title Playboy of the West Coast. Soon after splitting with Rebecca, 32, he hooked up with Krista Allen, 32, who will guest-star on his ABC sitcom "Jake in Progress," premiering stateside to-night. Stamos also has dated waitresses, a nurse and lately socialite Charlotte Freund, 20.



John Stamos appears to be making the most of his single status since his divorce from Rehecca Romiin.



"American Idol" features annoying screeching from judge Paula Abdul, center, as well as contestants.

I saw a preview of the film "Ice Princess." Does its teen Ustar, Michelle Trachtenberg, do her own figure skating? Robyn Richards, Chicago

"I'm a pretty good skater and took a lot of lessons, Michelle, 19, tells us, "but experts doubled for me on the difficult jumps." They included six-time Canadian national champ Jennifer Robinson, 28, who finished seventh in the 2002 Winter Olympics, and

newcomers Lauren Wilson and Sandra Rucker, both 17. "Ice Princess" opens stateside on Friday

QIs Donald Trump's new wife, Melania, merely eye candy, or does she play a substantive role in his world? — Ann Jones, Colorado Springs, Colo.

A The third Mrs. Trump, 34, has a good head on her pretty shoulders. In contrast to the tvcoon's previous wife, Marla Maples, Melania is very supportive and showers him with affection in public. Friends say The Donald, 53, has never been hapnever happier.



Trump: Remarried, and

I adored gossip columnist Liz Smith's book "Natural Blonde." Does she plan to publish another one soon? — H. MacAlister, Nashville, Tenn.

AYes. "Dishing" — a memoir filled with celebrity recipes and juicy gossip — arrives next month from Simon & Schuster. "As the old saying goes, everything I like is ei-ther illegal, immoral or fattening," says Liz, 82. "And some people do view eating as a surrogate for illicit sex. Both are wickedly tempting."

QHow is Ronald Reagan's first wife, Jane Wyman, these days? — J. Jones, Crofton, Md.

The 91-year-old Oscar winner (1948's "Johnny Belinda") is charming, mentally sharp as ever and involved with the Arthritis Foundation. Wyman and the late president (married 1940-48) had a daughter, Maureen, who died of melanoma in 2001 at 60, and a son, Michael, now 59



Despite Renee Zellweger's recent choice of hair color, she's still among Hollywood's gold standard.

Three of Hollywood's top stars had flops last year: Brad Pitt in "Troy," Tom Cruise in "The Last Samurai" and Renée Zellweger in "Bridget Jones: The Edge of Reason." Why are they still considered box-office gold? - E. Aldrich, Redding, Conn.

A Those films did disappointing business here but were blockbusters overseas. Worldwide, "Troy" grossed \$497 million, "Samurai" \$319 million and "Jones" \$228 million (plus video sales), which put them in 2004's top 20. In Hollywood, that's the gold standard.

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## STARS STRIPES, LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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#### Let soldiers be soldiers

Our rules of engagement are a guideline designed to allow soldiers to make decisions based on the situation to keep themselves, their fellow soldiers and in nocent bystanders safe from bodily harm.

ROE is a good concept but, as usual, the longer a program is around, the more polluted and stagnant it gets. We all know, for example, that a person who is firing at you can be engaged and killed to prevent bodily harm. What if the situation were different? What if an explosion had just gone off and you see a plain-clothes person with an AK-47, waving it in the air. He isn't pointing it at you - yet. Would you engage him?

I would. Unfortunately, some people don't think he posed enough of a threat to engage. Every Iraqi house is allowed to have and maintain one AK-47. The rule doesn't allow them to carry it outside. The weapon must remain in the house.

Now, if you see someone with an AK-47 outside, you are not supposed to engage unless they are pointing it at you or firing at you; basically, wait until he has as much of a chance to kill you as you do him and then decide whether you should engage him or not. I hope you make the right decisions and are accurate. All of this unwarranted baggage to the ROE is going to lead to one unfortunate consequence: More soldiers are going to be going home in coffins.

Clear up the ROE. Allow soldiers to be soldiers

> Sgt. 1st Class Jeremy Stemen Camp Manhattan, Iraq

#### Quality eroded with E-5 bump

In regard to the March 2 article about automatic promotions for Army E-5s ("Corporals, specialists to be put on promotion list"): I feel compelled to give not just my opinion, but the opinion of many concerned noncommissioned officers, as

That this is a knee-jerk reaction to a problem that has been looming over the heads of the NCO corps for quite some time is an understatement. Yes, the

#### Tell us what you think

Stars and Stripes welcomes your comments on editorials and columns that are published in the newspaper, and values letters on topics of importance in the lives of our readers. All letters must be signed, and must include the writer's address or base and telephone number. Please limit all letters to 300 words. We reserve the right to edit letters for length, taste and clarity.

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Army needs more sergeants and ves there are qualified people out there who can fill those slots. But retired Sgt. Maj. Gerald Purcell's opinion that commanders expect soldiers to meet a higher standard than that of the Army is ridiculous. If Purcell is referring to the minimum standards as being time in grade, time in service, then he is not part of the solution, but part of the problem.

The Creed of the Noncommissioned Officer is what I and other NCOs live by, and such statements as "I realize that I am a member of a time-honored corns which is known as 'the backbone of the Army' " give credence to the fact that the NCO corps is not a club or a pay grade, but a way of life.

The underlying fact with the lack of, or decrease in, junior soldiers going to the board is twofold. It's not their commanders: it's the motivation of the individual soldier and the lack of mentorship on the part of our leaders. Ouite a few young soldiers have the perception that the Army owes them something. Automatically making soldiers promotable only adds to that attitude.

Second, because we have already been sending soldiers to the promotion board simply because they have met time in grade, time in service requirements (under the direction of many unit commanders), the NCO corps is chock-full of weak leaders.

The solution lies with the NCO corps. It is our job as leaders to mentor and guide our soldiers so that they can take our place and be successful. If the "Backbone of the Army" plans on filling its ranks with marginal or substandard soldiers, if we are going to be so foolish as to accept quantity over quality, then we can only expect our standards to decrease as well as the desire and drive of the individual soldier.

Not every soldier has what it takes to be a leader. Leaders are not made, they are born, and anyone who would tell you differently doesn't know the difference between a leader and a manager.

I am not looking for a soapbox or a sounding board. I am looking for a little common sense, especially in matters of such significance as promotion to the ranks of the noncommissioned officer.

Sgt. 1st Class Michael A. Byer Logistics Support Area Anaconda, Iraa

#### 'Doonesbury' offers diversity

This letter is in response to "Trudeau strip a 'piece of crap' " (letter, Feb. 28) in which the letter writer described "Doonesbury" as, let me get this right, "that left-wing-subcutaneous-slandering piece-of-crap comic by Trudeau.

I assume, of course, that the right-wing comic "Mallard Fillmore" by Bruce Tins ley causes equal offense. All Stars and Stripes is doing is being fair and balanced. The men and women of the military have a diverse set of views - as evidenced, for example, by the recent debate over the separation of church and state in letters to the editor.

Stars and Stripes provides a great ser-vice to all of us, and it is not the job of the paper to simply be a mouthpiece for certain political viewpoints. As in any decent democracy, allowing for a free and open press is part of the mission in Iraa and Afghanistan. Maybe we should set the example by keeping our own publications free and open to divergent sets of views, even the comic strips.

Lt. i.g. Seth Nve Bagram, Afghanistan















#### **OPINION**

#### What newspapers are saying at home

The following editorial excerpts are se-lected from a cross section of newspapers throughout the United States. The editori als are provided by The Associated Press and other stateside syndicates

#### The death of states' rights? The Observer-Reporter, Washington, Pa.

We won't go as far as columnist George Will did, calling the U.S. Supreme Court's ban on sentencing juveniles to death "an in-tellectual train wreck." But we acknowledge that even among people who agree with the outcome of this month's decision, there are those who feel the court intruded into an issue that should properly be addressed by state legislatures. ..

Although the numbers have dwindled in recent years, there were still 18 states that as of this month permitted the execution of people who commit crimes when they are 16 or 17 years old. ... And there is considerable public sentiment for the trend to treat young er criminals as adults. .

Of course, we don't actually execute juve niles. With the length of the appeals process we let them grow up on death row before we kill them.

If we really have a problem with that, if there is a national consensus to no longer do so, state legislatures should be under considso, state registatures snoutd be under considerable public pressure to change their laws. Unfortunately, there appears to be no such demand, and the Supreme Court has once again stepped into the legislative arena to correct state laws it doesn't agree with. You don't have to agree with such laws either to question if the court overstepped its bounds.

#### Five-SeveN's number is up The Express-Times, Easton, Pa. A Belgium gun manufacturer has figured

out a way to put a large amount of firepower into a small package. Now, New Jersey's two senators are leading the charge to send this gun packing.

e handgun, Five-SeveN, is an assault pistol that's lightweight. It's so small that it can easily be tucked inside a pocket. Yet it's so powerful it can rip through bulletproof or Kevlar vests. In November, after police in Connecticut

In November, after police in Connecticut seized one of these guns, our Homeland Se-curity Department issued a safety alert to law enforcement officials. The following month another one of these weapons turned up on the streets of Camden County, N.J., in the hands of an alleged drug dealer. . . .

We need to closely protect and defend every American's right to bear arms. But ... this weapon isn't for any legitimate use. It's a miniature killing machine. And it must be kept out of the hands of criminals. ... ere is no legitimate reason for law-abid-

ing citizens to be packing these armor-pierc-ing pistols. Banning them would in no way jeopardize the Second Amendment or weak-en the power of the National Rifle Association and other gun lobbies.

Congress should ban not only the Five-SeveN but this class of weapon with the potential to do so much harm. And no good.

#### Fix Social Security in due time The King County Journal, Bellevue, Wash.

President Bush is still stumping for changing Social Security, but it's become obvious that people want to slow the process down.

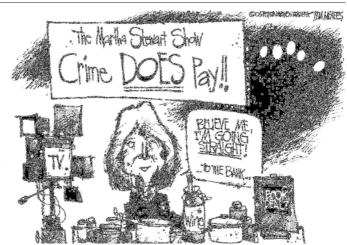
Given the significance of any changes Congress should plan on more discussion and less action. .

The president wants future retirees to divert part of their Social Security payroll deductions into personal investment accounts a change that he says would give them the possibility of greater retirement benefits

and take some pressure off Social Security.

That may be what would happen but, like many things, the devil is in the details. So far the details are far from clear

What is apparent is that there are many in-



dividuals and organizations with concerns and questions.

What's important is to come up with a fix to Social Security that puts the Depres sion-era nmgram on firm financial ground for the long run. For now, there's no agreement that the president's ideas do this. ...
Republicans in Congress say it may not be

possible to craft a Social Security bill this year. That's not necessarily bad, especially the time is spent further refining and explaining the options to fix the program.

#### Stewart's plan: A good thing? The Times Herald-Record, Middletown, N.Y.

One of the secrets to living a rewarding life, so the gurus of such things tell us, is being able to glean positive results from whatever comes your way, especially the self-generated nasty stuff. Lemonade from lemons, etc.

Once again, Martha Stewart shows us the way. The mayen of stylish living has apparently managed to transform the tackiness of being sentenced to five months in a federal prison into a model for personal rehabilita-tion. Forget Martha the Merciless, aloof cor-porate bully. Say hello to Martha the Humble, friend of the downtrodden and advocate for prison reform

But there has always been something a little different about Stewart, something that compels attention. ... What she says and does, likes and dislikes, matters to a lot of people. So if there are positives to be drawn from her incarceration, they ought not be casually dismissed as just another celebrity

None of this is guaranteed, of course. If the new Stewart is really a false image being marketed for broad consumption, consumers will figure that out soon enough. Selling sheets is easier than peddling false humility In that case, Stewart's story will still be instructive, although the lemonade will be unappetizingly sour

#### FEMA at center of a storm Sarasota (Fla.) Herald-Tribune

The Federal Emergency Management Agency's response to Florida's battering by four hurricanes last year may come under

some much-needed congressional scrutiny U.S. Reps. Katherine Harris and Mark Foley have called for hearings to investigate how FEMA distributed relief aid. ... Foley, R-West Palm Beach, is irritated that FEMA

has taken so long to reimburse counties for hurricane cleanup expenses that the agency promised to cover. A Senate investigation is also under way,

with hearings expected.

with nearings expected. Undoubtedly, a pressing topic for any hearings will also be the mess in Miami-Dade County, where FEMA paid \$30 million in damage claims to 10,000 people—even though all of the hurricanes missed nat area by at least 100 miles.

FEMA officials continue to defend those payments, despite that 14 of the recipients have been indicted on federal fraud charges.

FEMA has much to explain. ... Hurricane victims haven't gotten many answers from FEMA. Maybe Congress will.

#### Let cotton farmers iron it out The Commercial Appeal, Memphis, Tenn.

Congress has no choice other than to make significant changes in farm policy in the wake of the World Trade Organization's decision that crop payments and other federal aid to U.S. cotton farmers violate internaional trade agreements. ... To avoid trade sanctions cotton subsidies

must be reduced. That will save American taxpayers millions of dollars, but it will change the lives of 25,000 U.S. cotton farm-

Producers now face an uncertain future because of a 2003 complaint filed by Brazil that made a compelling case that U.S. government support of American growers has artificially driven down world prices and made it harder for other countries to com-

Because of subsidies, according to the complaint, cotton produced in the United States for about 68 cents a pound is sold on the international market for as little as 30 cents a pound. The WTO essentially agreed U.S. government subsidies are unfair to this country's competitors around the world, who are producing cotton for much less.

Consequently a transition is in store for cotton growers and the Mid-South economy. It will be a bumpy ride to an uncertain desti-nation, but there seems to be no alternative except to make the trip.

#### Apathy about AIDS is fatal The Record, Hackensack, N.J.

An alarming statistic came out of a recent international AIDS conference: The HIV in-

fection rate among African-Americans has doubled. Blacks are now 10 times more likely than whites to be infected with HIV, up from five times as likely in the early 1990s

The darkening face of AIDS has coincided with a rise in public apathy about the disease. You don't see as many celebrity events these days to raise money for AIDS research... But it probably would get more attention if HIV infected 1 out of 50 whites, not lost of 50 blocks. 1 out of 50 blacks.

To counter the public inattention, more crucial than ever that black leaders speak up. They must demand changes in health policy that could slow the scourge, and work harder to raise awareness in their community of the risks of infection. ...
Researchers at a recent AIDS conference

aid the doubling of the infection rate among blacks was due to such causes as drug addiction, poverty and inadequate health care. These aren't easy problems to fix

But some actions that would help aren't so difficult — more widespread HIV testing, more drug treatment, more efforts to stem the infection among drug users

#### Testing waters with oil plan The Gainesville (Fla.) Sun

For all the emphasis being placed in Washington, D.C., on drilling for oil in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, one might think it is the single most important element in the Bush administration's proposed energy policy. Certainly, it is shaping up to be the most hotly debated energy issue in Congress.

But ... [i]f allowing oil companies to ex-ploit the suspected oil reserves in that remote corner of the Alaskan wilderness is so central to America's future energy security, why do the oil companies appear so luke-warm about the idea? ...

The industry's seeming indifference may have to do with pessimistic or inconclusive evidence about just how much oil may be available for tapping in the refuge. By one government estimate, it's about 10 billion barrels of oil. At full production, that might vield one million barrels a day - about 4 percent of the nation's daily need.

So why the political enthusiasm for drilling when the industry doesn't seem to care? Well, one theory is that opening up the Arc-tic Refuge would make it politically easier to drill off the coasts of Florida and California later on. .

So why should Floridians care about drilling in the Arctic? It's not like they want to start sinking wells off our golden beaches.

### **Sunday Horoscope**

Mars in Capricom sends aggressive energy into relationships.

Peaceful relationships that were slipping into a boring groove are invigorated. But relationships that were already agitated could reach an unpleasant level of intensity This is no time to be stubhom, but tell that to the Holiday Mathis

Taurus moon! Utilize deep breathing to keep your cool

#### TODAY'S RIRTHDAY

(March 13). Your ever-evolving life is an inspiration to others. Put your message out there. The universe only knows to give to you if you are grateful for what you've received. Loving gestures are reciprocated, bringing comfort and healing. By June, you're ready for an adventure. Sagittarius and Capricorn are ideal partners for

ARIES (March 21-April 19). There are people who shine like beacons in your life. And then there are those who blend into the scenery, surprising you when they finally reach out - you almost forgot you knew them. Honor those people now.

#### TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Your sign rules the throat, and

today, your verbal requests have even more weight than usual. You'll be surprised what mountains you can move using only the magic of your voice. Don't waste the gift on small stuff

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). As much as you'd enjoy an easy road. friendships are not without occa sional strife. When you presume the other person is innocent (even though this seems highly unlikely to you now), a new insight leaps to the fore

#### CANCER (June 22-July 22).

You'll assemble a team for your special project - or at least you should! To take on the whole thing solo is nothing short of unnecessary martyrdom. Strongly consider other water signs (Scorpio and

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Nothing compares to the sweetness of family connections. You're absoluteyour next of kin. Hint: The best you can give is a listening ear. Turn off the distractions.

#### VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). So far, your reputation in a certain social group is perfectly preserved.

The stakes are raised, though, and it takes more

to stay in good graces. Show your social savvy by thinking ahead.

#### LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). When the matriarch

of your family is happy, everyone is happy. If said matriarch is you, now's the time to spoil yourself silly. If not, an affectionate display aimed at "mama" will be uplifting to all.

#### SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).

Your social set represents a pastiche of different styles, and you can learn something from each contributing person. So instead of worrying about fitting in, play up the differences between you and those around you.

#### SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec.

21). Exercise caution - eve though it's not your thing. Let the deal go down without you if necessary. When you're not in a hurry, and you're willing to be thoughtful, you save time, money and energy

#### CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan.

19). Hiding your skills is futile. The experts agree that you're one of them! This means you'll be asked to help, which is really more of a pleasure than an obligation. The more generous you are, the happi-

### AOUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Risk being unpopular. Liking some-

thing different from what the rest like, acting on your own initiative and adopting the lonely cause are all favored activities. You're a true independent

#### PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).

The music of the spheres is a grand orchestra, but the melody is a simple one, heard in the smallest details of nature - a leaf, the buzz of a bee, the lapping tide. Likewise, you communicate to the world in big and small ways.

Creators Syndicate

### Names carry sounds of home

On a recent trip through New England, I noticed that many nlace names share certain elements, such as "ham" in "East-ham" and "Chatham," "mouth" in "Plymouth" and "Falmouth," and "wich" in "Norwich" and "Greenwich." Any light you can shed on the origins and meanings of these names would be appreciated.

As you probably realize, many of the places in New England were named by the first English settlers who crossed the Atlantic To make the unfamiliar shores of their "new England" seem less foreign, the names they chose were often the names of familiar places they had left behind

The British places whose namesakes you mention acquired their names hundreds of years ago, when the English language was still in its earliest formative stages. As the language evolved around them, the place names remained essentially unchanged.

As a result, names whose meanings would have been perfectly intelligible and logical to those who chose them now require a little investigation for us to understand.

This column was prepared by the editors of Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, Tenth Edition. Readers may send questions to Merriam-Webster's Wordwatch, P.O. Box 281, 47 Federal St., Springfield, Mass. 01102.

## Mom blames messenger of grandson's bad news

Dear Abby: My nephew was recently arrested. It's the fourth time I know of that he's been arrested for various things -

there may have been more This time, bond was set at \$500. He asked his parents for the money. They refused because they hoped the time he spent in jail would teach him a lesson

Next he called his grandparents (my parents). He told them he was in jail because his girlfriend (with whom he has two kids, 6 years old and 8 months old) had accused him of aggravated assault. They dislike her, so they believed him.

I learned the real reason for his arrest when I called the jail It wasn't assault; it was two counts of driving without a li cense, and two counts of failing to appear in court. When I approached my mother about this she got mad at me, and now she's not speaking to me. Was I right to let her know her grandson was trying to use her again, or do I owe her an apology?

— Heartbroken In Virginia Dear Heartbroken: There's a saying that in ancient times it was dangerous to give Caesar bad news, because it was his

mother could not have been thrilled to hear what you had to say, so instead of aiming her anger where it belonged - at her grandson — she's taking it out on

Dear Abby

you. You don't owe your mother an apology; she owes you one.

Dear Abby: I have been married for 18 years and have two children. I come from humble background. My husband's family is very well-to-do. I try to be as nice to them as I can but his mother, sister and brother treat us like we don't exist

If we are invited for a family get-together, they don't speak to either of us. If they have something to communicate. they talk

How should I deal with this? They act as if we are not their family. It breaks my heart to see them be mean to my children. They seem to think that money is everything.

I think my husband's mother and sister may be the problem. I can't continue to let them walk all over me. Please give me some insight, I

have no one to talk to. \_ On The Outside In

Independence, Kan.

Dear On The Outside: It would have been helpful if you had been able to explain why your hus-band's family has been so cold and unwelcoming. Whatever the reason, if they have not accepted vou after 18 years of marriage to your husband, it is not likely to happen now. For your own happiness, and that of your children, strictly limit or eliminate your

visits with the in-laws. Once you

stop seeking their approval, your

Dear Abby: I am a

life will improve.

23-year-old graduate student who is working on my Ph.D. in genetics. My great-aunt and I are arguing over the use of "Dr." the non-academic world.

I say that I'll be allowed to call "Dr. Jones" when I graduate. She disagrees, saying only MDs are allowed to call them-selves "Doctor." Who is right? - Almost Dr. Jones

Dear Almost Doctor: Your aunt is well-meaning but misinformed. Once having earned your doctorate, you are entitled to be intro-duced as "Doctor" if you wish, and to be addressed as "Doctor"

in formal situations. Letters for this column — with your name and phone number — should be name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles CA 90069. Readers can write to Abby on the Internet at http://www.uexpress.com/dearabby Universal Press Syndicate

## Remain neutral when dealing in aftermath of sister's divorce

Dear Annie: I have a question about post-divorce relationships. My sister, "Karen," mar-ried my best friend, "Roy," but

they divorced two years ago. I have since tried to mend my relationship with Roy, but he has made no attempt to return my calls or acknowledge Annie's Mailbox

me desnite several efforts to reach out to him I come from a large family, and my wife and

I were the first to know the divorce was coming. Both Roy and Karen confided in us for nearly a year before their prob lems became common knowledge For a long time. I deeply resented Roy for putting my sister through this misery. They made attempts at counseling before divorcing, but I think Roy was only putting up a front, and never really expected any reconciliation to occur

Now I have a second sister who also is divorcing, and I don't want to make the same mistake twice. Is there something I should do to mend fences with Roy, or should I just forget it?

- Troubled in Toronto Dear Troubled: During a relative or friend's divorce, it is

best to remain as neutral as possible, offering support and encouragement Taking sides can only lead to trouble

It's very likely Roy is aware that you blame him for the split, and this would not make him feel comfortable renew

ing the friendship. He also may carry some guilt about the circum stances of the divorce, and becoming chummy again could bring back unsettling memories. If you want to mend fences, send an e-mail or leave a phone message saying you'd like to be friends again when he's ready. Then let him make the next

Dear Annie: My older sister, "Lauren," is very smart, well respected by her peers, and has an important government job. Neither of us is married. She does not live near me, so we get together only on special occa-

Last year, Lauren was diagnosed with diabetes. I went to see her over the holidays and was shocked at her living condi-

She has two cats and a dog The house reeked of animal urine, and the litter boxes were overflowing. Dust bunnies were piled up, and there were stacks of dirty dishes in the sink. It was a pigsty

This can't be good for a diabetic, and I worry that Lauren is going to make herself more ill. I said nothing at the time, because Lauren does not take criticism well, but later, I wrote her a letter with my concerns. I offered to clean her house or hire someone to do it, but she hasn't written back. Any advice?

- Love My Sister Dear Sister: Not everyone is a

good housekeeper, and you cannot force Lauren to clean up if she isn't interested.

If you think her slovenliness may indicate that she is depressed about her recent diagnosis, mention that possibility, and see if she is receptive to counseling. Meanwhile, please stay as close as you can, in case she turns to you for help.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to anniesmailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndi-cate, 5777 W. Century Blyd., Suite 700. Los Angeles, CA 90045. Creators Syndicate

#### **RELIGION**

## 'Leaving the Saints' over alleged sex abuse

## Mormon church and author's siblings deny actions detailed in woman's memoir

The Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY new memoir detailing alleged child sexual abuse in a prominent Mormon home is being discredited by both the church and the author's siblings.

It's one thing for any Mormon woman to say in public that she had been sexually abused, but it was quite another for Martha whose roots with the church date back to the beginning: Her great-great-grandfather was the personal dentist for Joseph Smith, founder of what is now the nation's fifth-largest de-

The author of the best seller "Expecting Adam," the 42-year-old Beck also is the daughter of the late Brigham Young University professor emeritus of ancient scripture, Hugh Nibley. In his role as a Mormon apologist, he was one of the church's leading authorities and chief defenders against intellectual attacks. His



Dr. Martha Beck

prolific writings now number 15 volumes of collected works, and will likely reach 20 volumes.

Beck chronicles her difficult and dramatic break from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, her spiritual quest

and details confrontations she had with her father over the alleged abuse in "Leaving the Saints: How I Lost the Mormons and Found My Faith.'

The majority of the book details her falling out with the Mormon faith and criticizes church authorities for stifling dissent and independent thought among Mormon scholars who didn't adhere to church orthodoxy.

"Not since I'd studied Chinese. using textbooks written by the Communists, had I run into more careful censoring, more suspicious questions, more timid conversations between people who hoped they might actually be true friends," she writes.

But the book is drawing attention mostly because of the claims Beck makes about her father.

Nibley died at age 94 on Feb 24, but Beck and other family members said he adamantly denied the allegations of sexual

abuse and vaginal scarring that Beck claims she endured. She began recovering the memories, she says, in 1990, two days after a near-death experience during surgery to repair a spontaneous tear that had opened inside scarring in her vagina.

While she was anesthetized during surgery, she said she encountered a "Being of Light."

Two days later, she said she had her first remembrance of the alleged abuse: She says she remembers being stretched out and legs spread like a frog on a dissecting table. "My father is doing something that feels as though it's ripping me in two," she writes in

"Everything Martha has said is absolutely false," she quotes her father as saving. "To think she would even claim such a thing is shocking. I would never defile my own child.

Her seven siblings discounted the book in a written statement

"Martha's most egregious accusation - that our father molested her over several years and that the family covered up the crime - is not true. While salacious ac-

cusations sell books the reader should know that in this case it simply did not happen.

"These allegations dishonor real abuse survivors who lose credibility and suffer increased anguish when false accusations are exposed," the family state-

ment says. "Recovered memory" refers to instances in which psychologists say the memory of a painful experience is suppressed in an effort to ease discomfort associated with that experience, only to resurface years later.

The Mormon church also has denounced the book as "seriously flawed" in the way it depicts the church, its members and teach-

"Fair-minded readers will find it at best unconvincing, at worst mean-spirited and at times absaid church spokesman Dale Bills.

Beck said the abuse she remembered wasn't about lust. wasn't even about sex, except as a form of torture or even symbolic death," Beck wrote. "No, it was all about religion.

## For whom the bells toll

#### ... Definitely not for Fla. monastery's neighbors

BY TERRY ROEN The Orlando (Fla.) Sentine

GLENWOOD, Fla. — June Kasparek works the graveyard shift and wakes every morning to the loud clanging of

The nurse goes to bed at 6 a.m. after working a 12-hour shift at Florida Hospi-tal DeLand. The tolling begins two hours

June and Ross Kasparek, who live across the street from the Mother of Good Shepherd Monastery, said the bells toll anywhere from 30 to 150 times for up to seven minutes several times a day.

Nobody needs to ring their bells that long. Anyone could get the message after five dings. It's obnoxious," said Ross Kas-The Kasnareks and several of their

neighbors complain the bells have ruined their quiet country lifestyle in this unincorporated community west of DeLand Church bells are exempt from the county's noise ordinance.

Some people also are angry that the

county allowed the monastery to be located in a residential neighborhood. The Mother of Good Shepherd monas

tery is home to three monks, including Father Seamus, who says they have the right to ring their bells whenever they please. He attributes the complaints to "a few cranky neighbors" and said most of the people who live around them welcome the monastery.
"When you try to do God's work, there

are always problems," said Father Sea-mus, an ordained priest who, like the other monks at the monastery, does not use his last name. "There's a war going on and people are dying of cancer. Why are bells such a problem?"

Father Seamus, the superior of the monastery, said the bells are a call to prayer and an important part of their monastic routine. The monks lead a contemplative life of prayer and meditation, chanting prayers seven times a day beginning at 4 a.m.

ounted on metal frames, the two bells - the largest is 4,000 pounds - are rung with pulleys four to five times a day, Father Seamus said. After some neigh bors complained about the noise, the monks used a crane to move the bells away from neighboring homes.

In another concession to the neighborhood, the bells are not rung until 8 a.m. to announce daily Mass and 9 a.m. for Sun-

day Mass. Father Seamus said. Katrina Starling, who lives nearby, said the bells are "very tranquil" and re-

mind her to take a moment of silence to Frank Burns, who lives behind the monastery, said the bells are "reminis-

cent of the old days."

The controversy started in January

2004 when the monks moved their mona tery from Peaks Island, Maine, to Mer-cers Fernery Road. They rented the 11acre tract for four months until they bought the property and a three-bed-room cinder block home in April for \$350,000, according to Volusia property records.

Roger Purcell, who lives behind the monastery on Sunset Court, said he called the monastery and asked that they ring the bells less often or dampen the sound since the noise wakes him in the

"The guy was cocky on the phone and told me they can ring the bells whenever they want," said Purcell, 57.

The monks said they are not willing to tone down the rings or ring the bells less often. They said they have already tried to be good neighbors and vow to stay. They plan to expand and build a new chapel, monastery and retreat house.

"The bells are in compliance and we've already compromised by ringing the bells later," Father Seamus said.



Brother Joachim is one of three Augustian monks at

Mother of the Good Shepherd Monastery in Glenwood, Fla. Some neighbor say the monks, who live a contemplative lifestyle, are disturbing the quiet when they ring their bells every day for Mass.

### Churches win big in grab for mini radio

San Francisco Chronicle

Community activists cheered when the federal government began offering licenses for lowpower radio stations five years ago. But now, some are wondering what happened to what they envisioned as an end-around to big media domination of the air-

After years of fighting legal battles for left-leaning "pirate" broadcasters, advocates pictured a sea of under-100-watt stations where low-income folks and communities of color - "new voices" in government parlance — could grab a tiny slice of a radio dial now dominated by conglomer-

But something unexpected happened on the way to the dial diversity the left thought it was getting: Low-power frequencies have been gobbled up by Chris-tian organizations. Church groups make up roughly half the 344 applicants licensed by the Federal Communications Commission for stations with a broadcasting range of about five

And with precious few vacant frequencies available in big cities, most of the low-power stations have popped up in far-flung suburbs and small towns - far from the greatest concentration of communities of color.

### YOUR MONEY

## **Preparing pocketbooks for retirement**

### Before calling it quits, troops should consider financial hit

BY RICK EMERT Stars and Strines

While retiring from the military means no more boot shining or deployments downrange, it does not necessaily mean that it's time to get a condo in Florida

and sit on the beach all day.

Servicemembers — enlisted and officers — will draw roughly half of their base pay when they retire, meaning they have many things to consider before deciding to hang up the uniform. Have they lined up a job in the civilian sector? Should they buy a home? Have they saved enough money?



pay change from \$3,458.70 to \$1,729.35

Α

years

once he retires. For a geant, the pay would drop from \$2,908.20 to \$1,454.10.

That's not enough to really retire, said Staff Sgt. Lawrence Primus, 1st Battalion, 6th Field Artillery in Bamberg, Germany, who is planning to retire after his son graduates high school in June. "It would be impossible to stop

working," he said. "You figure your pay gets cut in half. All of a sudden I'll be making \$1,500 a month. We can't live on that." In addition to the base pay, ser-

vicemembers also get a cost-of-living allowance, extra

allowance if they live off post.

When a servicemember retires, all of those extras go away, said Sylvester Kimbrough a military pay technician who focuses on retirement pay at Warner Bar-

racks in Bamberg Primus and one of his co-workers who is retiring, Sgt. 1st Tomey, hoping are to find a job where the work and



lar to their status in the Army "That's a scary part of retiring: what am I going to do next?" asked Tomey, who plans to retire in November. "I know Mc-Donald's and Wal-Mart are always hiring, but I want a job where the position and pay are comparable to my position in the

To prepare for the transition to the civilian sector, both soldiers said they have been putting away money for years. Primus said he has spent the past several years preparing, and he bought a house near Fort Bragg, N.C., a few years ago. Tomey said he has saved about \$10,000.

"The Army pays for most of the moving and the lodging when you relocate after retiring, but there are going to be expens-es no matter what," Tomey said. "I wanted to make sure we would have that covered. If we

## Separation can be 'a scary time'

week. Buying lunch every day

can be very expensive. If you pack a lunch for work, put that

money you would have spent

into savings. Try to put 10 per-

Hanging up the uniform doesn't come without stress,

have to worry about life insur-

ance, buying a home and your pay being cut in half," Nichols

said. "There is so much more to

consider, things you may not

have had to pay in the Army, like

"So much hits all at once, you

cent of your pay into savings.

R etiring soldiers may find the jump from the Army world to the civilian business sector a little daunting.

"It is a scary time for someone who has spent all of his adult life in the military," said Mary Kaldsleisch, job assistance counselor for the Army Career and Alumni Program in Wies-

baden, Germany. The program can help with writing a résumé, preparing for job interviews and even tracking down jobs. Kaldsleisch said.

"We try to help them take a look inward and see how they are going to approach a nonmilitary lifestyle," she said. "They have to demilitarize themselves and their résumés."

Many soldiers "don't think they have any skills, but the skills they possess from being in the military are really sought after by employers," she said

That's not to say that prospective employers are waiting for newly retired soldiers just outside the gate, she warned.

"On average, it takes about six to nine months to find a job," Kaldsleisch said. "Retiring soldiers can start coming to ACAP two years before they retire. It's important to get the word out to commanders to let the soldiers start coming here as soon as possible. The thought of a soldier only getting a couple of months to find a job scares me."

Not to mention that the average retiring soldier

is about 40. But Sgt. 1st Class Phillip Tomey, of the 1st Battalion, 6th Field Artillery in Bamberg, Germany, said the age factor doesn't concern

"I don't think of it as being older than the competition, but being more experienced," Tomey said. "I'm a mechanic. I've been looking around and there are a lot of opportunities out there for

But Tomey, who is planning to retire in November, said he can't try to lock down a job until he has retirement orders with a definite date of when he would be available to start work.

That, too, can be difficult with the always-looming threat of stop loss, which prevents service-members from leaving the service when their time is up. Tomey said he was planning to retire late last year when his plans were changed because of stop loss.

"I didn't think it was right," said Staff Sgt. Lawrence Primus, who is planning to retire in June. "When a soldier gets to that point, it makes him change his whole plans. We arranged for the tenants to be out of our house on a certain date, so we've had to suck up that cost for a year.

"You get yourself ready and get your family ready, and then the Army prevents you from going through with it," Tomey said. "It can be really stressful."

- Rick Emert

utility bills. The reality of it all

can be overwhelming." While retirement will be an extreme life change, Tomey said he's ready.

"My career has taken me to the ultimate level," he said. "I've led soldiers into battle in the Persian Gulf and in [Operation Iraqi Freedom1.

"I've accomplished what I wanted to accomplish in my military career. Now I'm ready to move on to the civilian world."

E-mail Rick Emert at: emertr@mail.estripes.osd.mil

over, that's great."

but the key is to start early, said Andria Nichols, financial readiness planner with Army Community Service in Bamberg. She recommends that soldiers start saying at least five years before re-

have some of that money left

There are many ways to save,

"There are so many ways to save money," Nichols said. "The first thing is to track your expenditures. I think a lot of people would be surprised at how much money they spend in a day or

## Study: Personal finance not part of most states' school curricula

BY BEN FELLER The Associated Press

WASHINGTON - More states are requiring students to learn about managing money, but personal finance remains a fringe topic in schools and a major source of federal concern.

Seven states mandate that students take a course about basic finances to graduate high school, according to 2004 survey results released Thursday by the private National Council on Economic Education. That's up from 2002, when just four states required such courses.

In the standards they set for schools, most states say they want money matters to be taught - 38 states include the ideas of saving, investing, risk management and other finance themes in their standards or guidelines, an increase from 31 states two years earlier. But the survey found many states don't enforce the standards, let alone require entire courses

"There is more good economic and financial education being offered in schools than ever," said Robert Duvall, president of the national council, which released its findings during an economic literacy summit. "But as a subject area, it continues to be marginalized as an add-on in an already crowded curriculum. We need to keep pushing to make it part of the core

Poor understanding of personal finance can cause more than a sloppy checkbook. As young people rack up credit debt or fail to save money, they can later find themselves with bankruptcies, home foreclosures and financial stresses that divide families, experts say.

The problem of bad money management is draw-

ing more national attention as a public education issue. Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan has prodded schools to beln teach kids financial literacy so they are not saddled by poor financial decisions as adults

The Financial Literacy and Education Commis-sion, which represents 20 federal agencies and commissions, is working on ways to help people navigate complex money decisions.

In a national survey last year, only 52 percent of high school seniors answered correctly questions about personal finance and economics. The students struggled, for example, with questions on income tax, stocks and bonds, credit card liability and retirement plans.

SEE MONEY ON PAGE 33



Math teacher Curt Hallaway instructs ninth-graders Crystal Haberstroh, left, and Jessica Plummer at Border Central School in Calvin, N.D., on Feb. 3. Like all but seven states, North Dakota does not require students to take a personal finance course to graduate high school.

#### YOUR MONEY

## Low loan rates going fast

Q: I have about \$14,000 in student loans, all with variable interest rates that are now about 4 percent. I haven't been paying any of them because I've been in school, but I recently became a part-time student and I received a notice from the lender that I will have to start making payments.

As a single mother earning less than \$20,000 a year, I barely make enough to raise two Money Talk children, much less make big payments.

Any pointers that you could provide?

A: You'll want to act fast to lock in the low interest rate you currently enjoy. The rate on federal student loans is expected to jump July 1, perhaps by 2 percentage points. That could greatly increase your interest costs over the life of these loans.

Right now, you can lock in a payment of about \$142 a month. After the rates climb, your payment could be \$155. Over the 10-year course of the loan, the difference could cost you about \$1,600.

In addition, Congress is talking about eliminating the option of fixed-rate consolidation loans. In the future, all student loans may well be variable, and that could expose borrowers to

big swings in their payments. Those who act by July 1, however, will still be able to enjoy the benefit of a low-cost, fixed-rate consolidation loan. Consolidating now could help you avoid the expected stampede as borrowers rush to take advantage of this narrowing window of opportu-

Once you've locked in your rate, you can explore other options. Lenders offer a variety of payment choices, including plans that are based on your income and others that allow you to defer payments for as long as three years, based on economic hardship. For more information, you can contact the Department of Education (www.studentaid.ed.gov)

Q: You recently wrote that the maximum that could be contributed to an IRA was \$4,000. I thought the limit was \$3,000, or \$3,500 if you are 50 or older. When did the limit change?

A: On Jan. 1. The contribution limit for people under 50 rose to \$4,000 this year; people 50 and older may make an additional "catch-up" contribution of \$500, for a total of \$4,500

The \$4,000 limit is scheduled to remain in effect until 2008, when it will rise to \$5,000 annually. The catch-up amount, however, will rise to \$1,000 next year. That means in 2006 and 2007, people 50 and older will be able to contribute a total of \$5,000 a year.

When the regular limit rises again in 2008, people under 50 will be able to contribute a maximum of \$5,000, while those 50 and older can contribute \$6,000 annually

You have until April 15, by the way, to make an IRA contribution for the previous tax year. But you can contribute only the previous year's limit. So if you're funding a 2004 IRA, you're limited to \$3,000 (or \$3,500 if you're 50 or older).

Liz Pulliam Weston is the author of "Your Credit Score: How to Fix, Improve and Protect the 3-Digit Number That Shapes Your Financial Future," Questions for Money Talk can be submitted to her at 3940 Laurel Canyon Blvd., No. 238, Studio City, CA 91604, or at www.lizweston.com. She regrets that she cannot respond personally to queries.

## Money: Few schools teaching finance

Relying on

students about

money is not a

as many kids

don't get that

far, said the

National

Council on

Economic

Education.

MONEY, FROM PAGE 32

The new report says that the seven states requiring students to take a personal finance course are Alabama, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Kentucky, New York and Utah

Relying on colleges to teach students colleges to teach about money is not a good approach, Duvall said, as many kids don't get good approach, that far, and college courses are more about theory daily life. Duvall's counpresident of the cil wants all states to re-

quire an economics course, including personal finance. A total of 15 states require an economics course this

year, up from 14 two years ago. States also can reinforce economic themes in other courses. such as a math class on compound interest or a history class

on the Boston Tea Party and taxation Duvall said William Walstad, director of the National Center for Resaid states should unite those varied lessons in a well-defined sequence of courses - just as they do with math and science. He said advocates need to lobby with more urgency and

unity "Time hurt us if we don't keep pressing the case," Walstad

The number of states that included personal finance in their curriculum standards dropped from 40 to 31 between and 2002 before rebounding in the new

Duvall said that was a reaction by states to No Child

Left Behind, the 2001 federal education law that put a greater emphasis on state math and reading progress.

"We've had a couple of years to take that in stride and figure out how to not only put a rightful emphasis on language arts and mathematics, but also financial literacy," he said.

### FRIDAY'S MARKET SUMMARY

52	week			Net	%	YTD	52-wx
High	Low	Name	Last	Chg	Chg 9	% Chg	% Chg
10,984,46	9,708,40	Dow Jones Industrials	10,774,36	-77.15	71	08	+5.22
3,889.97	2,743.46	Dow Jones Transportation	3,832.09	+13.00	+.34	+.90	+33.84
363.82	259.08	Dow Jones Utilities	354.15	-2.45	69	+5.73	+28.86
7,455.08	6,211.33	NYSE Composite	7,330.43	-24.55	33	+1.11	+11.98
1,539.14	1,150.74	Amex Index	1,483.39	07		+3.42	+20.62
2.191.60	1.750.82	Nasdag Composite	2.041.60	-18.12	88	-6.15	+2.87
1,229.11	1,060.72	S&P 500	1,200.08	-9.17	76	98	+7.10
683.36	548.29	S&P MidCap	668.50	17	03	+.78	+11.86
656.11	515.90	Russell 2000	626.84	10	02	-3.80	+7.55
12,108.93	10,268.52	DJ Wilshire 5000	11,821.54	-69.58	59	-1.25	+7.78
	NYSE	Aı	MEX		Nas	DAQ	
	CTIVE (\$1		VE (\$1 OR MORE	) Mos	ACTIV		

						,					
	NYS	E			Аме	ΕX			Nase	AQ	
Most	ACTIVE	(\$1 or	MORE)	Most	ACTIVE	(\$1 or	MORE)	Most	ACTIVE	(\$1 or	MORE)
Name	Vol (00)	Last	Chg	Name	Vol (00)	Last	Chg	Name	Vol (00)	Last	Chg
Elan Lucent	331227 259635	7.07	40 08	SPDR SemiHTr	531271 478639	120.39 33.55	85 90	Intel Nasd100Tr	1132534 1000531	24.20 37.17	65 35
ExxonMbl	243908	61.05	+.68	SP Fncl	123902	29.69	26	Microsoft	597911	25.09	34
TexInst TimeWarn	180346 179477	26.20 17.50	88 25	SP Engy iShRs2000	109227 75511	42.80 125.08	+.35	Cisco SiriusS	552403 476278	18.45 5.36	26 09
RiteAid Pfizer	168644 166090	4.03 26.36	39	OilSvHT	55715 47063	94.71 11.05	+.49	SunMicro Oracle	396125 363631	4.45 13.09	+.07
Sears	155355	57.56	+4.20	DJIA Diam	34757	107.84	63	ApidMati	343505	16.40	43
HewlettP NatOilwl	141814 135544	19.94 48.85	+1.24	SP Matts MadCatz g	30948 26963	31.41 1.69	+.19	JDS Uniph AppleC s	314260 222877	1.90 40.27	04 +.44

KEY D	434	ISE	STO	CKS	
Name	Div	PE	Last	Chg	YTD %Chg
Alliant Technosystem		17	71.82	+.03	+9.9
Armor Holdings		17	41.64	+1.35	-11.4
Boeing	1.00	25	57,49	49	+11.0
Computer Sciences		15	45.53	+.13	-19.2
Engineered Sup Sys	.07	19	55.06	11	-7.0
General Dynamics	1.60	18	108.38	73	+3.6
General Electric	.88	23	35.82	31	-1.9
Halliburton	.50	-	40.38	63	+2.9
Harris Corp.	.48	29	68.05	+.69	+10.1
Allied Signal	.83	23	38.52	+.17	+8.8
L-3 Communications	.50	22	74.72	52	+2.0
Lockheed Martin	1.00	21	59.49	-1.04	+7.1
NorthrpG s	.92	18	54.29	+.05	1
Raytheon	.80	42	38.64	34	5
Rockwell Intl.	.66	23	57,94	+.73	+16.9
Sequa Corp.	-	33	54.11	+.51	-11.5
Texas Instruments	.10	25	26.20	88	+6.4
Textron Inc.	1.40	30	77.38	31	+4.9
United Technologies	1.76	18	101.36	47	-1.9

KEY MUTUAL FUNDS				
Name	NAV	Chg.	%Ret.	
Fidelity Invest: GroInc	37.76	27	-1.2	
Fidelity Invest: GroCo	53.16	37	-5.2	
Amer Century Inv: Ultra	28.60	25	-3.1	
Fidelity Spartan: Eqldx	42.60	31	6	
Putnam Funds A: GrinA p	19.44	12	+.5	
Fidelity Invest: A Mgr	16.09	07	7	
Frank/Temp Frnk A: SMCpGrA	33.96	07	6	
AIM Investments A: Const p	22.52	12	-1.4	
Fidelity Invest: USBI	11.00	04	6	
Fidelity Invest: Ovrsea	36.38	+.08	+2.8	
Fidelity Advisor T: GrOppT	30.12	25	-1.4	
Fidelity Advisor T: EqinY	28.50	14	+.9	
Scudder Funds S: GroincS	21.79	15	5	
Putnam Funds A: GlbEqty p	8.57	03	+1.4	
AIM Investments A: ChartA p	12.93	07	+.9	
AIM Investments A: WeingA p	12.78	09	-2.0	
Merrill Lynch I: BalCapl	26.79	08	+.3	
Scudder Funds S: Intl FdS	45.80	+.01	+3.5	
Fidelity Advisor T: OvrseaT	18.25	+.04	+2.8	
Lord Abbett A: DevGtA p	15.27	+.04	-4.0	
Soudder Funds S: Income S	12.88	03	2	
Merrill Lynch I: USGvtMtg	10.15	02	6	
Soudder Funds S: Devel	19.88	07	+2.0	
Putnam Funds A: GIGvA p	13.15	+.02	1	

#### **EXCHANGE RATES**

Euro costs (March 14)\$	1.376
Dollar buys (March 14)€	0.726
British pound (March 14)	_\$1.9
Japanese ven (March 14)	102.0
South Korean won (March 12)	976.0
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	_0.37
British pound	1.925
Canada (Dollar)	1.2043
Denmark (Krone)	5.53
Egypt (Pound)\$1.3459	_5.79
Eŭro\$1.3459	/0.74
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.798
Hungary (Forint)	180.3
Iceland (Krona)	58.69
Israel (Shekel)	4.293
Japan (Yen)	103.8
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.291
Norway (Krone)	6.067
Philippines (Peso)	54.0
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.749
Singapore (Dollar)	1.61
South Korea (Won)1,	.000.3
Switzerland (Franc)	1.149
Thailand (Baht)	38.2
Turkey (New Lira)	1.404
(Military exchange rates are	thos
available to customers at military	bank
ing facilities in the country of ice	

#### PRECIOUS METALS

#### INTEREST RATES

Prime rate5.50
Discount rate 3.50
Federal funds market rate2.50
3-month bill2.76
30-year bond4.82
Sources: The Associated Press, Bank of

## ents and Sensibility Money tip of the day

### Health insurance sites

As health care costs rise, access to affordable health insurance coverage has become a growing problem for many Americans. Fortunately, though, there is a bit of free and useful information

available on the Web that can help consumers sort out health insurance option and compare plan prices. ■ America's Health Insurance Plans, www.ahip.org, Select "Con-

sumer Information" to access information about long-term care insurance, managed care and health insurance.

■ Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, www.ahcpr.gov/consumer/insuranc.htm. Good resource for learn-

ing about health insurance basics and choosing the right plan. ■ Federal Citizen Information Center,

www.consumeraction.gov/caw\_insurance\_health.shtml. Provides useful overview of health insurance options and long-term care insurance.

■ eHealthInsurance.com

www.ehealthinsurance.com/ehi/index.html. Compare individual. family and small business insurance plans.

■ InsWeb, www.insweb.com. Select "Health" to begin search for the best insurance quotes in your area.



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# Lawyer says Canseco's request for immunity being considered

BY RONALD BLUM

NEW YORK — Jose Canseco's request for immunity when he testifies before a congressional hearing on steroids next week is being considered by the Justice Department, according to the former AL MVP's lawyer.

MVP's lawyer.

Robert Saumooke, who represents Canseco, said he spoke Friday at length with a staff lawyer of the House Government Reform Committee about the immunity request. Saumooke said Canseco would be able to answer more questions if he is given immunity for the March 17 hearing.

"It's with the Justice Department," Saunooke said. "The committee is considering our request and has not ruled out granting immunity to Jose, but it is required to inform and get input from the Justice Department prior to ruling on the request."

David Marin, a spokesman for committee chairman Rep. Tom Davis, said in an e-mail that as of Friday night, the committee was not planning to offer immunity. Two Democrats on the panel supported immunity. If Canseco's request is denied, Saunooke intends to ask the committee to close the session to the public and

media.

Rob Manfred, an executive vice president in the baseball commissioner's office, was in Washington on Friday to meet with the committee. Manfred is among the officials subpoenaed to testify. The commissioner's office has vowed to fight the subpoe-

Boston pitcher Curt Schilling, an outspoken opponent of steroids, said Friday he was willing to testify. Frank Thomas of the Chicago White Sox also said he planned to attend, although there was a chance he could testify by telephone due to his injured ankle, which he said would swell if he travels by plane.

Mark McGwire, Jason Giambi, Sammy Sosa and Rafael Palmeiro haven't said whether they'll show up in Washington. Davis, a Virgnina Republican, has threatened the subpoenaed witnesses with contempt of Congress if they don't testify. And what of Barry Bonds, who hasn't been summoned by the committee leadership? "I would like to see Bonds testify. Give him immunity, too," said Rep. Edolphus Towns, a New York Democrat on the committee.

"I'm disappointed that he's not been asked to come, I'll be honest with you. I'll even go a step further: I wouldn't have a problem with all of them having immunity. Our role is to get information, and if we can get all we can get, we can use it to clean up the game."

Towns plans to ask the witnesses whether they used steroids. We need to ask that," he said.

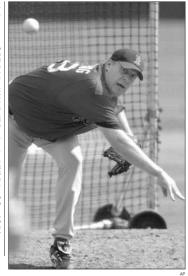
"We need to know."

If a witness is offered immunity, testifies and later is charged with a crime, prosecutors would have to prove statements before

Congress were not used as evidence.

Rep. Dennis Kucinich, an Ohio
Democrat on the committee, also
supported immunity.

"If we want people to testify, we cannot expect they're going to put their personal freedom on the line, at least if we want to get any answers," he said.



Boston Red Sox pitcher Curt Schilling, who is recovering from ankle surgery, threw 48 pitches on Friday but will likely miss the opener.

# Red Sox's Schilling likely to miss opener

he Associated Press

Curt Schilling vs. Randy Johnson on opening night might not come off as planned. The Roston Red Soy ace threw

to batters Friday for the first time since winning Game 2 of the World Series against St. Louis. Recovering from right ankle surgery on Nov. 9, Schilling said

he's unlikely to pitch against the New York Yankees and his former Arizona teammate on April 3 in New York. The flu that left Schilling bedridden earlier this week set back

ridden earner this week set back his rehabilitation timetable. "The math right now doesn't add up very well," Schilling said in Fort Myers, Fla. "I'd like to

in Fort Myers, Fla. "I'd like to think it's important for me to get back ... but that doesn't change the timetable."

If Schilling is unable to pitch on

Opening Day, former Yankee David Wells likely would start. With pitching coach Dave Wallace and trainer Chris Correnti

with pitching coach Dave Wallace and trainer Chris Correnti looking on, Schilling threw about 50 pitches from the stretch.

"I'm frustrated because nothing's working on my pace," Schilling said. "But I'm also understanding of the fact that I can't make it different than what it is right now."

At Peoria, Ariz., the Seattle Mariners said closer Eddie Guardado could be sidelined for

#### Spring training

up to three weeks after straining

"They think that he's going to be OK and there are, hopefully, things we can do to shorten the time period," manager Mike Hargrove said.

J.J. Putz is considered the top candidate to take over as Seattle's closer if Guardado can't pitch by April 4, when the Mariners open against Minnesota. Putz, a converted starter who has been relieving for two seasons, had nine saves in 13 chances while Guardasaves in 13 chances while Guarda-

do was hurt last year.

"Obviously, J.J. has closing experience so he's a consideration," Hargrove said. "He's a big, strong guy and throws the ball hard and throws strikes."

At Kissimmee, Fla., the Houston Astros said Roy Oswalt will start their season opener for the third straight season.

Astros manager Phil Garner said he decided to stick with last year's rotation because he liked having left-hander Andy Pettitte between Oswalt and right-hander Roger Clemens.

Oswalt struggled in his second spring start, allowing five hits and three walks in an 8-7 victory over Atlanta. Jason Lane homered twice and drove in five runs.





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#### **SCOREBOARD**

### AFN TV & Radio Tennis

AFN-Atlantic, midnight-College basket-all: NCAA Men's Tournament Selection AFN-Atlantic, 2:30 a.m.-Pro basketball: n at S ARN-Sports, 3 a.m.-Motor racing: Crandon nternational Off-Road Race 3 (dld). ARN-Sports, 4 a.m.-Motor racing: Champi-onship Off-Road Racing, Topeka Race 1

AFN-Sports, 6:30 a.m.-College basketball: Atlantic Coast Conference championship

Atlantic Coast Comerence Commonscriptions game (dld).

ATN-Sports, 9 a.m.-Pro football: Arena cootball League teams T80 (dld).

ATN-Sports, 130 p.m.-Golf: Honda Classic, final round (dld).

ATN-Sports, 7 p.m.-Baseball: Spring Training, Atlanta vs. St. Louis.

#### Tuesday

API-Adlande, J. am.-Pro basketball: LA.
Lander Badden Badd

AFN-Sports, 2:30 p.m.-Pro basketball: Mil-waukee at Miami (did). AFN-Sports, 6 p.m.-Outdoors: Wal-Mart FLW Tour (did). AFN-Sports, 7 p.m.-Baseball: Spring Train-ing, L.A. Angels vs. Chicago White Sox.

All times are Central European Time; dld in-dicates delayed listing. All listings are sub-ject to change. Visit www.myafn.net for more information.

#### Baseball

#### Spring training glance

AMERICAN LEAGUE Cleveland Toronto Los Angeles Tampa Bay Detroit Baltimore Boston Chicago Kansas City Texas Minnesota Oakland New York Seattle .778 .750 .700 .625 .571 .500 .454 .444 .300 .300 .250 NATIONAL LEAGUE W L .857 Colorado Atlanta .750 Chicago Milwaukee San Franci Cincinnati .600 .556 .500 .444 .444 .400 .400 .400

Cincinnati Arizona New York Washington Florida Los Angeles San Diego Philadelphia Pitteburgh Pittsburgh

m.r. Mets (ss) vs. L.A. Dodgers (ss) at Vero Beach, Fla. Atlanta (ss) vs. Philadelphia (ss) at Clear-vater, Fla. Pittsburgh (ss) vr. Cisota, Fla.
Cincinnati (ss) vs. Pittsburgh (ss) at Bradenton, Fla.
St. Louis vs. N.Y. Mets (ss) at Port St. Lucie,

ampa, Fla.
Texas vs. Seattle at Peorla, Ariz.
San Diego vs. Arizona at Tucson, Ariz.
Milwaukee vs. Colorado at Tucson, Ariz.
Chicago White Sox vs. Oakland at Phoenik
LA. Angels (ss) vs. Chicago Cubs at Mesa,

Ariz.
San Francisco (ss) vs. Kansas City at Sur-prise, Ariz.
LA. Angels (ss) vs. San Francisco (ss) at Scottsdale, Ariz.

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Singles

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First Blo

ricc., Tanly, G.A. G., Tulled, States, def. Alberdam, Martin, Spain, d. 2-d. Slawer Schuether, Germany, def. Alex Kuznetsov, United States, G. Alberdam, G. G. G. Sander, G. Sander, G. Sander, G. Sander, G. G. Sander, G

#### College basketball Friday's men's scores

### NAIA Division II Second Round

Second Round
Cedarville 76, William Jewell 70
Concordia, Neb. 70, Flagler 63
Cornerstone 76, Dominican, Calif. 62
Indiana Tech 95, St. Vincent 85, OT
Northwestern, Iowa 72, Bellevue 69
Oregon Tech 58, Mid-Am Nazarene 48
S. Oregon 70, Newman 67
Walsh 73, Embry-Ridde 71
WACAA Division II

#### Friday's women's scores

TOURNAMENT
America East Conference
Semifinals
Boston U. 70, Vermont 63
Hartford 52, New Hampshire 38
Atlantic Sun Conference

Attantic Sun Conferen Semifinals Georgia St. 80, Troy 56 Stetson 61, UCF 59 Big Sky Conference Semifinals Montana 78, Idaho St. 67 Montana 78, Idaho St. 67
Weber St. 68, N. Arizona 63
Big South Conference
Semifinals
Liberty 80, Birmingham-Southern 44
N.C.-Asheville 75, High Point 53

Big West Conference Semifinals Idaho 69, Long Beach St. 67 UC Santa Barbara 79, CS Northridge 67 Colonial Athletic Association Semilinals Delaware 62, James Madison 57 Old Dominion 64, Drexel 63

Old Dominion 64, Drexel 63
Mid-American Conferenc
Semifinals
Bowling Green 77, E. Michigan 57
Kent St. 73, Marshall 57
Mid-Eastern Athletic Confere
Semifinals

more-assers a minetic Conneren Coppin St. 79. Hermifinals Norfolk St. 52. Florida A&M 47 Missouri Valley Conference Semifinals Illinois St. 58. Nova 48 Indiana St. 79. Howa 46 Mountain West Conference Semifinals New Mexico 70, UNIV 67 Utah 64, BYU 48 Devision II.

Multiple West Conference
New Meest Conference
Unah 4, 1970
Whith 67
Unah 4, 1970
Whith 67
Unah 5, 1970
Whith 67
Unah 5, 1970
Whith 67
Unah 6, 1970
Whith 67
Unah 67

Semifinals Louisiana Tech 92, Fresno St. 87, 20T Rice 76, San Jose St. 68

#### College baseball

#### Friday's scores

EAST Albany at Hoftsra, ccd., weather

Albany at Hofters, cod, weather Auburn 5, VMA aburn 5, VM

Liberty af Marishall, pod. weather Lincoln Memoral 4, S. Indiana. 1530, Arizona 31. S. Lander Liberty Arizona 31. S. Lander Liberty Arizona 31. S. Lander Liberty Arizona 31. Maryland 15. N. C. State 6 Maries 4, English Maries 5, English Maries 5,

Virginia 3, Marist 0 Va. Commonwealth 6, Richmond 4 Va. Commonwealth 6, Richmond 4 Wagner 4, Boston College 2 W. Carolina 9, Appalachian St. 4 W. Kentucky 14, Worlford 2 William & Mary 11, Princeton 6 William & Mary 11, Princeton 6 William & Mary 11, Princeton 6 William & Mary 11, Princeton 10 Kansas 10, N. Dakota St. 4 Kansas St. 13, E. Michigan 4 LeMoyne at Ohio, ccd., field conditions Nebraska 7, Soakota St. 2 W. Michigan at Southers St. 4 W. Michigan at Southers St. 4 W. Michigan & Southers St. 2 W. Michigan & W. Michigan

Glen Day Omar Uresti

Omar Uresti Neal Lancaster Paul Gow Brandt Jobe Graeme McDow Scott Gutschew James Driscoll

Robert Allenby Glen Hnatiuk Jonathan Byrd Mark Hensby Carl Pettersson

Carl Pettersson Gavin Coles Andrew Magee Jim Carter Jeff Sluman Craig Parry

John Cook Dudley Hart

Craig Barlow

Rocco Media Mark Brooks

J.L. Lewis Hank Kuehne Poland Thatcher D.A. Points Fredrik Jacobson Skip Kendall Alex Cejka Jason Allred

Jason Allred
Ricky Barnes
Mark O'Meara
Bob Ford
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Franklin Langham
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Chris Riley
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Ryuji Imada
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Joff Hart

Jeff Hart Jeff Hart Jeffrey Yeckes Mario Tiziani D.J. Brigman Bart Bryant John Huston

John Huston Olin Browne Chris Smith Jimmy Walker Tom Kite Scott Hend

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Hunter Haa: Craig Bowd Phillip Price Phillip Price Steve Flesch Craig Perks Brendan Jones Andre Stolz Steve Pate Gene Fleger Lee Rinker

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Danny Briggs
Tom Pernice, Jr.
Bernhard Langer
Rod Pampling
JJ. Henry
Darron Stiles
Todd Fischer
Mark Calcavecchia
Joey Sindelar
Robert Gamez
Paul Azinger
Rocco Mediate
Mark Brooks

73-70-143 70-73-143

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74-71-145 72-72-144 77-67-144

W. Michigan at Cincinnati, ccd., weather ST SOUTHWEST CONTINUEST Creighton 11, Texas-Pan-American 0 East Central 84, Angelo 5t. 5-9 E. Texas Baptist 8, Austin 6 Lamar 22, Cent. Connecticut St. 0 McMurry 12, Howard Payne 0 McMurry 12, Howard Payne 0 McMurry 12, Howard Payne 10, 12 in-

Northwestern St. 13, Oklanoma 14, 12 in Oklanoma Cly 15-14, Wayland Baptist 1-Oklanoma St. 11, Wis -Anliwaukee 0 Tarleton St. 10-6, Cameron 8-14 Texas A&M. 15, OCA. 5 Texas AMM. 15, OCA. 5 Texas AM

Texas-Dallas 16, Le Fourneau 1
Arricon 2, Mischappil 5, 2
Brighten Tycon 11, Leve Mexico 5, 7
Brighten Tycon 12, Leve Mexico 5, 12
Brighten Tycon 13, Leve Mexico 5, 12
Brighten Tycon 13, Leve 14, 12
Brighten 13, Leve 14, 12
Brighten 13, Leve 14, 12
Brighten 14, 14, 12

TOURNAMENTS
Alamo City Classic
Oral Roberts 15, Notre Dame 8
Texas-San Antonio 7, SW Missouri St. 2
Kennel Club Classic
Ohio St. 16, North Florida 10 unio St. 16, North Florida 10 Lamar Classic Michigan 14, New York Tech 9 Lamar 22, Cent. Connecticut St. 0 Metrodome Tournament Louisiana-Lafayette 14, Harvard 2 Minnesota 4, St. John's 2

Minnesota 4, Sf. John's 2 Pepsi/Johnny Quik Classic Dallas Baptist 9, Penn 2 S. Utah 13, Monmouth, N.J. 8 San Francisco 6, Penn St. 1 Fresno St. 6, Gonzaga 3

Fresno St. b. Gonzaga 3 Public Storage Baseball Classic UC Irvine 9, Wichita St. 4 Southern Cal 6, Texas Tech 1 USA Challenge Arkansas-Little Rock 3, Indiana St. 2, 10 in-

Arkansas-Little Rock 3, Indiana St. 2, inigs
Connecticut 3, Memphis 1
Villanova Baseball Classic
Siena at LaSalle, ccd., weather
Hartford at Villanova, ccd., weather
Yellow Book USA Classic
Oregon St. 4, CS Northridge 1
Pepperdine 4, Winthrop 1

#### Golf

#### Honda Classic

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66-66-132 69-64-133 -12 -11 Robert Damzen
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Chad Campbell
Nick Watney
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Bob Estes
Billy Andrade
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Tim Clark 69-64-133 70-65-135 64-71-135 68-68-136 67-70-137 70-67-137 71-66-137 70-68-138 69-69-138 69-69-138 69-69-138 69-69-138 555554444444444444444 Joe Ogilvie John Senden Joe Durant Tag Ridings Aaron Baddeley 70-70-140 68-72-140 71-69-140 73-67-140 75-65-140 Jam Furyk Geoff Ogilvy Tommy Armour III Todd Hamilton Billy Mayfair Tim Herron Justin Leonard Vijay Singh Davis Love III

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Tim Petrovic
Lucas Glover
Saan O'Hair 69-71-140 72-68-140 69-71-140 69-72-141 71-70-141 73-68-141 73-68-141 71-70-141 71-70-141 70-71-141 70-71-141 69-72-141 71-70-141 71-70-141 71-70-141 71-70-141 Sean O'Hair Jason Bohn Jason Bonn Brian Davis Kevin Stadler Mark Wilson Hidemichi Tanaka Cameron Beckman Padraig Harrington Dean Wilson 70-72-142 73-69-142 75-67-142 70-72-142 73-69-142 Dean Wilson Joey Snyder III Kevin Johnson Tom Gillis Vaughn Taylor David Toms Fred Couples Brian Gay 73-69-142 72-70-142 72-70-142 71-71-142 73-69-142 73-69-142

70-72-142

Greg Owen Charles Warren Nick Faldo

77-75-152 79-73-152 76-76-152 78-75-153 77-76-153 74-79-153 74-79-153 76-78-154 79-75-154 72-83-155 75-81-156 Lee Rinker Notah Begay III Steve Lowery John Elliott Steve Allan Oatar Masters

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69-71-70-210 71-67-72-210 69-67-74-210 73-69-69-211 Booker Kallsson, Sweden 95-6: 76-71 Booker Kallsson Sweden 95-6: 76-71 Booker Kallsson Sweden 95-6: 76-72 Booker Kallsson Sweden 95-6: 76-72 Booker Kallsson Sweden 95-72 Booker Swede 70-74-70-214 70-73-71 - 214 69-75-70 - 214 70-73-71 - 214

Luois Oosthuizen, South Africi Bradley Dredge, Wales David Drysdale, Scotland Darren Fichardt, South Africa Jose Manuel Lara, Spain Also Ian Woosnam, Wales Paul Lawrie, Scotland

#### SBC Classic

Friday At Valencia Country Club Santa Clarita, Calif. Purse: \$1.55 million Yardage: 6,905; Par: 72 (36-36) First Round

Mike Reid Des Smyth Bob Gilder Raymond Floyd D.A. Weibring Don Reese uon Reese Jerry Pate Tom Purtzer Don Pooley Mark McNulty Craig Stadler Keith Fergus Lanny Wadkins Brad Bryant Mike McCullough David Foer David Eger Morris Hatalsky

35-34-69 34-36-70 33-37-70 Mark Johnson Mike Reid 33-37-70 34-37-71 37-34-71 35-36-71 36-35-71 36-36-72 35-37-72 38-34-72 35-37-72 35-37-72 37-35-72 36-36-72 35-38-73 35-38-73 34-39-73 40-33-73 34-39-73 37-36-73 39-34-73

# Hawks end 23-game road losing streak

TORONTO - The Atlanta Hawks' road woes are over. For the first time since Dec. 10, they won away from home.

Tyronn Lue had a season-high 29 points and Al Harrington scored 28 as the Hawks ended their 23-game road losing streak with a 116-112 overtime victory over the Toronto Raptors on Friday night.

The Hawks also ended their overall losing streak at 13 games.

"Twenty-three and 13 is a lot losses " Harrington said. can start to believe they can't win. This is huge for us."

Lue and Harrington combined for 14 of their team's 15 points in overtime to lead Atlanta to its first victory since Feb. 7 against the Los Angeles Lakers.

"We have the worst record in the league but we still like to win," Lue said.

The Raptors had a chance to ice the game late in the fourth quarter, but Jalen Rose and Rafer Alston missed crucial free throws. Lue's jumper tied it at 101 with 6.1 seconds left, and Rose missed a 20-foot jumper at the buzzer to send the game into overtime.

Lue's two jumpers and two free throws gave Atlanta a 112-110 lead with 1:05 left. Rose tied it with a jumper, but Harrington made a lavup and Lue made two

free throws with 4 seconds left. Atlanta's bench erupted in



#### Roundup

cheers after Lue made the free throws.

"We've been knocking on the door the last three or four games," Atlanta coach Mike Woodson said. "Our guys came out and played tremendous, from beginning to end."

Rockets 127, Suns 107: Tracy McGrady scored 38 points and Yao Ming had 27 points and a career-high 22 rebounds, helping visiting Houston rally from a 14-point, third-quarter deficit.

The victory was the third straight for the Rockets over an elite Western Conference team following victories over Dallas and Seattle in the two previous The loss prevented the Suns

(47-15) from becoming the winningest team in the NBA and dropped them a half-game behind the idle San Antonio Spurs (47-14) in the race for homecourt advantage in the playoffs.

Kings 113, Clippers 112: At Sacramento, Mike Bibby hit a last-second jumper for the second straight game to give the Kings their 14th straight home victory over the Clippers.

Bibby finished with 28 points and 12 assists — and yet another example of his incredible cool



Atlanta Hawks' Josh Childress. center, drives to the basket between Toronto Raptors' Chris Bosh, left, and Donyell Marshall on Friday in Toronto. The Hawks' 116-112 victory in overtime was their first win since Feb. 7.

under pressure. Three pights earlier, Bibby beat the Memphis Grizzlies by banking in a three-pointer at the buzzer.

Celtics 115, Pistons 113 (20T): At Boston, Paul Pierce scored 38 points, hit the game-winning jumper with 23 seconds left and deflected Tavshaun Prince's three-point attempt on the Pistons' last posses-

The Celtics won for the sixth time in seven games since trading for Antoine Walker and maintained a three-game lead over Philadelphia for the Atlantic Division lead.

The Celtics snapped five-game losing skid against Detroit, while the Pistons lost their fourth consecutive road game and have dropped four of their last five overall

Mavericks 112, Bucks 110: At Milwaukee, Dirk Nowitzki, in his second game back from a knee injury, had 29 points and nine rebounds and Jason Terry tied his season high with 28 points.

Michael Redd who led Milwaukee with 33 points, missed a fadeaway jumper with 2 seconds left that would have tied the game.

Pacers 101, Warriors 83: At Indianapolis, Stephen Jackson, scratched from the starting lineup because he missed a morning shootaround, came off the bench late in the first quarter, hit his first four shots and finished with 22 points

Reggie Miller added 19 points. including 11 in the opening period, and Jeff Foster had 14 points and 17 rebounds.

Jermaine O'Neal's right shoulder injury may be worse than the Pacers originally thought, coach Rick Carlisle said before the game

O'Neal among the NRA leaders in scoring with a career-high

average of 25.1 points, was hurt at Denver last week and missed his fourth consecutive game.

"We're still gathering information," Carlisle said of the shoulder injury, originally diagnosed as a sprain. "We'll know more probably tomorrow or the next day."

76ers 112, Bobcats 80: At Philadelphia, Allen Iverson had 25 points and 12 assists and Chris Webber played one of his best games for the Sixers, contributing 16 points, eight rebounds and five assists. Samuel Dalembert added 15 points for the Sixers, who led 91-59 after three quarters en route to their largest margin of victory this season.

Timberwolves 101, Magic 96: At Orlando, Kevin Garnett scored five of his 25 points in the final minute, including a three-point play with 52.9 seconds left that broke a 95-95 tie. Hedo Turkoglu had 32 points for Orlando, but he missed a free throw and a driving layup in the final 25 seconds.

Grizzlies 94, Jazz 82: Mike Miller shot 9-for-13 and scored 24 points and visiting Memphis shot 68 percent from the field in the second half and made 10 of 19 three-nointers.

Bulls 100, SuperSonics 97: At Seattle, Ben Gordon scored 14 of his 22 points in the fourth quarter, including a runner with 12.1 seconds left that put Chicago ahead for good. The Sonics lost their third in a row for the first time this season.

#### NBA scoreboard

#### **Eastern Conference**

x-Miami x-Detroit x-Boston Washington Chicago Cleveland Indiana Orlando		W 47 37 33 32 32 31 31	16 23 29 26 27 27 30 30	Pct .746 .617 .532 .559 .542 .542 .508 .508	1 1 1 1 1 1 1
Philadelphia New Jersey New York Toronto Milwaukee Charlotte Atlanta		30 27 26 26 25 12 11	32 35 34 36 35 47 50	.484 .435 .433 .419 .417 .203 .180	1 1 2 2 3 3

Western Conference						
x-San Antonio x-Phoenix x-Seattle Dallas Sacramento Houston Memphis Denver	W L Pet GB 47 14 .770 — 47 15 .758 ½ 41 19 .683 5½ 40 21 .656 7 39 24 .619 9 36 25 .590 11 35 26 .574 12 31 29 .517 15½					
L.A. Lakers Minnesota L.A. Cilppers Portland Utah Golden State New Orleans	31 29 .517 15½ 32 31 .508 16 27 35 .435 20½ 22 37 .373 24 20 41 .328 27 19 43 .306 28½ 13 47 .217 33½					

Indiana 116, forbito 112, 01 Indiana 101, Golden State 83 Philadelphia 112, Charlotte 80 Minnesota 101, Orlando 96 Boston 115, Detroit 113, 20T Dallas 112, Milwaukee 110 Dallas 112, Milwaukee 110
Memphis 94, Utah 82
Houston 127, Phoenix 107
Sacramento 113, LA. Clippers 112
Chicago 100, Seattle 93
Seturday's games
New Jersey at Miams
Golden State at Atlanta
LA. Lakers at Charlotte
Milwaukee at New Orleans
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Denver at San Antonio Memphis at Portland Sunday's games Dallas at Minnesota Houston at Sacramento Chicago at L.A. Clippers Utah at Detroit New Jersey at Orlando Washington at Boston Philadelphia at Toronto Seattle at New York

...eveland ...enix at Denver Monday's gan L.A. Lakers at Washington Boston at Charlotte Detroit at Atlanta Milwaukee at \$4.00 Portle\*\*

New Orleans at San Antonio Houston at Golden State Friday

#### 76ers 112, Hornets 80

CHARLOTTE — Smith 0-1 0-0 0, Okafor 8-15 1-2 17, Brezec 1-5 0-0 2, Bogans 3-9 0-0 6. Hart 4-8 1-2 10, Kapono 4-13 2-2 10, Alex-ander 2-5 1-2 5, Robinson 3-5 0-0 7, Ely 2-7 0-4 4, Allen 6-10 0-0 12, Carroll 2-9 3-4 7. Totals 35-87 8-168 7. 35-87 8-16 80.
PHILADELPHIA — Korver 5-11 3-4 17, Web-ber 7-14 2-2 16, Dalembert 7-10 1-1 15, Iguoda-la 4-6 0-0 8, Iverson 8-18 9-10 25, Salmons 1-4 2-2 5, Rogers 2-5 1-2 6, M.Jackson 3-7 3-4 9,

20 19 20 21- 80 Charlotte
Philadelphia Coals - Charlotte 20 19 20 21 - 89
Philadelphia Coals - Charlotte 3 24 2-1112
son 1-1, Hart 1-2, Okafor 0-1, Kapono 0-2, Cur10 3.9, Philadelphia 7-19 (Korver 4-6, Davis 1-1, Kopens 1-2, Salmons 1-4, Kerson 0-1, Charlotte 6-1, Kapono 0-2, Cur1-1, Kopens 1-2, Salmons 1-4, Kerson 1-6, Charlotte 6-1, Kapono 0-1, Charlotte 6-1, Charlotte 6-1, Charlotte 6-1, Okafor 9, Philadelphia 4-6
M.Jackson 9-3, Assists - Charlotte 19 (AlexFouls - Charlotte 2-0, Philadelphia 1-3 Technicals - Berzec, Philadelphia Effensive Three
Second, Nerson A-19,765, (2)AdA - N-19,765.

#### Pacers 101. Warriors 83

GOLDEN STATE — Dunleavy 7-9 1-1 18, Aurphy 3-10 3-39, Foyle 2-5 2-2 6, Richardson 5-6 0-5, Fisher 3-12 5-6 12, Pietrus 1-7 0-0 3, Davis 4-13 3-3 14, Biedrins 3-3 2-4 8, chabriaga 0-10-00, Cheaney 1-2 1-2 3, Tskit-shviii 1-1 0-0 2, White 1-3 1-2 3. Totals 28-72 8-23 83.

#### Timberwolves 101, Magic 96

MINNESOTA — Sprewell 7-18-3 317, Garnett 8-19 9-11 25. Thomas 3-7.3-5 3, Hassell 5-60-0 10, Hudson 6-131-2 17, Szczerblak 4-65-60-10, Hudson 6-131-2 17, Szczerblak 16-6-60, Hudson 6-13-2 17, Szczerblak 16-6-60, Hudson 6-1

#### Hawks 116, Raptors 112 (OT)

ATLANTA — J.Smith 3-8 3-8 9, Harrington 13-25 2-5 28, Ekezle 2-7 2-2 6, Childress 6-14 7-7 19, Lue 11-15 6-7 29, Ivey 3-5 1-1 7, Gugliot-ta 4-12 1-2 9, D.Smith 4-5 0-9 9, Drobnjak 0-0 0-0 0, Dlaw 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 46-91 22-32 116. TORONTO — Rose 5-17 11-12 22, Bosh 4-11 6-714, Araujo 0-2 0-0 0, Peterson 4-81-2 10, Al ston 7-17 5-7 19, Marshall 6-13 5-6 19, Bonne 8-9 0-0 21, Palacio 1-3 5-5 7. Totals 35-80 33-35 112.

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Atlanta \$2.22.02.25 (2.10 totals 5.7 e0 31.3.9)
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### Celtics 115, Pistons 113 (20T)

DETROIT - Prince 17:44 4-27, RWallace 4-17.9, Billus 2-18.16-0-18, B.Wallace 4-9 1-7.9, Billus 2-18.21, McDises 3-16-0-18, B.Wallace 4-9 1-7.9, Billus 2-18.21, McDises 3-16-17.7, Arroyo 1-4-0-2, Hunter 1-1-17.3, Ham 2-18.21, H

2-4, Billups 2-7, Hamilton 1-3, Proce 1-3), Boston 2-14 (Pierce 2-4, Davis 9-1, Iwest 0-1, Payton 0-1, LaFrentz 0-2, Walker 0-5), Fouled Out-Hamilton, Davis, Rebounds—Detroit 65 (B.Wallace 19), Boston 67 (Pierce 12), Assists—Detroit 27 (Billups 9), Boston 25 (Payton 8), Total Fouls—Detroit 28, Boston 30, Technicals—Detroit 28, Boston 30, Technicals—Detroit cond. LBrown, Hamil-Technicals—Detroit co ton, A—18.624, (18.624),

#### Mavericks 112. Bucks 110

DALLAS — Howard 1-1 0-0 2, Nowitzki 10-21 6-7 29, Henderson 2-2 0-0 4, Finley 8-15 1-2 19, Terry 11-17 6-8 28, Daniels 6-12 1-2 13, Harris 2-7 5-5 9, Bradley 2-5 0-0 4, Van Horn 2-7 0-0 4, Armstrong 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 44-87

2-7 0.0 (a. Armstrong 0-0 0-0 C. Totals 4-87 M. MWAREE — MANON 7-15 6-5 0.5 Smith MWAREE — MANON 7-15 6-5 0.5 Smith MWAREE — MANON 7-15 6-5 0.5 Smith MWAREE — MANON 7-15 6-7 0.5 Smith MWAREE — MANON 7-15 1-7 0.5 Smith MWAREE — MANON 7-15 0.5 Smith MWAREE — MANON 7-15 0.5 Smith MWAREE — M

#### Rockets 127, Suns 107

NUCKETS 1.2.1, SURIS 107 HOUSTON — McGrady 16.77 5= 38, Howard 2-8 2-2 6, Yao 10-18 7-9 27, Sura 1-5 0-2, Westley 6.10-4 42, Mutombo 7: 12:7, James 6-94 41, Bary 6-4 41, Padiget 10-6 PHOENIX — 8ichardson 4-11: 2-11, Stou-demire 9-23 13-16 31, Hunter 0-1 0-2 0, Nash 21-05-610, Johnson 6-16 12-15, McCarty 7-11 Totals 36-67 20-28 107.

Totals 36-97 30-28 107.

\*\*Bouston\*\* 23 31 35 13-10

\*\*British 11-107

\*\*Three-Point Goals—Houston 8-20 (Wesley

\*\*Po-1, James 2-3, Barry 1-2, McGrady 1-5, Sura

\*\*O-3), Phoenix 15-32 (McCarty 6-10, Jackson

-3), Richardson 2-4, Johnson 2-6, Barboss

\*\*Dobunds—Houston 62 (Yao 22), Phoenix 49

\*\*McGrady 6), Phoenix 21 (Nash 10), Total

\*\*McGrady 6), Phoenix 21 (Nash 10), Total

\*\*Contin—Houston 20, Phoenix 20, A-13, 422.

#### Grizzlies 94, Jazz 82

MEMPHIS — Battier 2-7 7-7 11, Cardinal 10 2-2 14, Wright 4-8 2-2 10, Williams 3-5 0-0 Miller 9-13 2-3 24, Posey 3-6 2-2 10, Watson

3-9 2-4 9, Humphrey 1-3 0-0 2, Emmett 0-1 0-1 0, Tsakalidis 2-3 3-4 7. Totals 32-65 20-25 94. UTAH — Kirilenko 7-15 10-11 25, Harpring 3-9:24-9, Mumphirey 1-3-0-2, Enrifierto -12-55-59-4, O,Tsakalidis 2-3:3-4-7, Totals 32-65:20-25-94, UTAH — Kirilenko 7-15:10-11:25, Harpring 47-5-5-13, Borchardt -0-0-0-0, McLeod 4-10 0-0-8, R.Bell 4-14:3-3-13, Okur 5-14:4-6-14, Handogten 1-1-0-0-2, Humphries 0-4-0-0-0, Snyl-der 0-3:1-2-1, Eisley 2-4-2-2-6, Livingston 0-1-0-0. Totals 27-73:25-28.

Ger O. J. 2. 1, 1936/ 24 2, 6, Livingston 0-1, 25 58 82. 24 6, Livingston 0-1, 25 58 82. 24 7-94 Utah 20 22 18 16–52 Three-p-olid Coals--Mempha 20 22 18 16–52 Three-p-olid Coals--Mempha 20 23 18 16–52 (aims 1-3, Battler 0-1), Utah 3-15 (R.Bell 2-5, Kirlienko 1-5, Quir 0-1, Snyder 0-1), McLeod 0-1, Esisey 0-2), Pouled Our 1-None. Rebound-0-1, Esisey 0-2), Pouled Our 1-None. Rebound-0-1, Esisey 0-2), Fouled Our 1-None. Rebound-0-1, 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936/ 1936

#### Kings 113, Clippers 112

Kings 113, Clippers 112
LA CLIPPERS — Simmons 19/17 44 24, more 143 27 30, Raimons 19/17 44 24, more 143 27 30, Raimons 19/13 14, More 143 27 31, Raimons 19/13 14, More 143 147, Raimons 19/13 14, Raimons 19/13

#### Bulls 100, SuperSonics 97

DIII3 100, super-3-200 CHICAGO - Davis 5-9 3-3 13, Nocioni 2-5 2-5 6, Curry 8-14 1-4 17, Chandler 2-3 8-11 12, Gordon 9-17 2-2 22, Harrington 0-3 0-0 0, Griffin 1-2 0-0 2, Platkowski 3-8 1-1 10, Pargo 0-0 1-3 15-3 15-2 2-3 10.0, Internet 3-16 3-4 11. To-1asi 3-58-2 2-3 10.0, Internet 3-16 3-4 9, Lewis 10-2 5-72 1-3 10-4 0-12 3-16 1-4 15-7-9 17, Rold 5-72 1-3 10-6 1-4 15-7 19, Rold 5-72 1-3 10-6 11-4 15-7 19, Rold 5-7 11-4 10-6 11-4 15-7 19, Rold 5-7 11-4 10-6 11-4 10-7 19, Rold 5-7 11-4 10-6 11-4 10-6 11-4 10-6 11-4 10-6 11-4 10-6 11-4 10-6 11-4 10-6 11-4 10-6 11-4 10-6 11-4 10-6 11-4 10-6 11-4 10-6 11-4 10-6 11-4 10-6 11-4 10-6 11-4 10-6 11-4 10-6 11-4 10-6 11-4 10-6 11-4 10-6 11-4 10-6 11-4 10-6 11-4 10-6 11-4 10-6 11-4 10-6 11-4 10-6 11-4 10-6 11-4 10-6 11-4 10-6 11-4 10-6 11-4 10-6 11-4 10-6 11-4 10-6 11-4 10-6 11-4 10-6 11-4 10-6 11-4 10-6 11-4 10-6 11-4 10-6 11-4 10-6 11-4 10-6 11-4 10-6 11-4 10-6 11-4 10-6 11-4 10-6 11-4 10-6 11-4 10-6 11-4 10-6 11-4 10-6 11-4 10-6 11-4 10-6 11-4 10-6 11-4 10-6 11-4 10-6 11-4 10-6 11-4 10-6 11-4 10-6 11-4 10-6 11-4 10-6 11-4 10-6 11-4 10-6 11-4 10-6 11-4 10-6 11-4 10-6 11-4 10-6 11-4 10-6 11-4 10-6 11-4 10-6 11-4 10-6 11-4 10-6 11-4 10-6 11-4 10-6 11-4 10-6 11-4 10-6 11-4 10-6 11-4 10-6 11-4 10-6 11-4 10-6 11-4 10-6 11-4 10-6 11-4 10-6 11-4 10-6 11-4 10-6 11-4 10-6 11-4 10-6 11-4 10-6 11-4 10-6 11-4 10-6 11-4 10-6 11-4 10-6 11-4 10-6 11-4 10-6 11-4 10-6 11-4 10-6 11-4 10-6 11-4 10-6 11-4 10-6 11-4 10-6 11-4 10-6 11-4 10-6 11-4 10-6 11-4 10-6 11-4 10-6 11-4 10-6 11-4 10-6 11-4 10-6 11-4 10-6 11-4 10-6 11-4 10-6 11-4 10-6 11-4 10-6 11-4 10-6 11-4 10-6 11-4 10-6 11-4 10-6 11-4 10-6 11-4 10-6 11-4 10-6 11-4 10-6 11-4 10-6 11-4 10-6 11-4 10-6 11-4 10-6 11-4 10-6 11-4 10-6 11-4 10-6 11-4 10-6 11-4 10-6 11-4 10-6 11-4 10-6 11-4 10-6 11-4 10-6 11-4 10-

SEATTLE — Evans 3-5 3-4 9, Lewis 10-20 4-6 27, James 1-4 0-2, Allen 4-16 7-9 17, Rid-nour 5-9 3-3 14, Daniel 3-8 3-4 10, Radmanov-ic 4-10-0-9, Collison 4-7 1-19, Potapenko 0-0 0-0, Totals 3-7-9 21-27 97. Chicago Seattle

Chicago Seattle 727 61 62-97 for New Policago 8-17 (Platkowski 3-4, Gordon 2-4, Hirinch 2-5, Duhon Allen 2-6, Banlesi 1-2, Ridnour 1-3, Radmanovi 1-5), Fouled 0-Ur. Radmanovic. Rebundton
-1-5), Fouled 0-Ur. Radmanovic. Rebundton
-1-5), Fouled 0-Ur. Radmanovic. Rebundton
-1-5), Fouled 1-7, Total Fouls-Forlago 27, Seattle 45 (Evans 10 (Ridnour 7), Total Fouls-Forlago 27, Seattle 12, Total Fouls-Forlago 27, Seattle 12, Total Fouls-Forlago 27, Seattle 12, Total Fouls-Fouls-Found(17,072).

# Syracuse to face an unlikely finalist

### West Virginia surprises Villanova

BY IRA PODELL The Associated Press

NEW YORK - Mike Gansey wild reverse layup in the first half looked like a lock to be his crazi-



est shot of the night That was way before the West Virginia forward was under the basket with less than a sec-

ond left

Gansey got fouled as he tried to put in a game-winning lavup. then made two free throws with .2 seconds remaining Friday night to give West Virginia a stunning 78-76 victory over No. 19 Villanova in the semifinals of the Big East tournament

The Mountaineers (21-9) will face Syracuse on Saturday in an unlikely championship game. West Virginia is the first No. 8 seed to play for the Big East title and will be making its first appearance in the final

"I would have never imagined this coming into this tournament," Gansev said, "We were trying to hopefully win a game or two to get into the NCAA tournament."

Mission accomplished. No team has won four straight

days to capture the Big East crown, but West Virginia will have a chance to do it against the 16th-ranked Orange (26-6).

"The way we've been playing, our team chemistry, we played probably the best we ever have all year," Gansey said. "It's just

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unbelievable."

Syracuse, the third seed, reached the title game Friday by holding on for a 67-63 victory over No. 12 Connecticut in a matchup of the past two NCAA champions

Connecticut (22-7) had won 10 straight conference games and even as the second seed was considered the tournament favorite. Instead, Syracuse will make its first appearance in a Big East final since losing to UConn in 1998.

'It seemed for a long time there we got to the finals every year, Syracuse coach Jim Boeheim said. "I think we took it for granted. It has been a while, but it's nice to be there."

The Orange used some impres sive defense to take a 32-19 halftime lead and they twice led by 21 points, the last time at 48-27 on a dunk by Hakim Warrick with 12:47 to play.

"Our defense was tremendous tonight," Boeheim said. "We did a

great job on the boards Warrick had 26 points and 10 rebounds while Gerry McNamara added had 15 points for the Orange, trying to win their fourth championship — first since 1992.

Charlie Villanueva had 18 points and 11 rebounds for the Huskies, who had played in the past three tournament title games. In the first half against Villanova (22-7), it didn't look like it was

going to be another special night for the Mountaineers. After falling behind 23-13 about 9 minutes in, West Virginia

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Syracuse coach lim Roeheim who has won three Big East tournament titles, advanced to the championship game for the first time since 1998.

began connecting from long range against the conference's best defenders beyond the arc.

The Mountaineers made five threes during a 29-8 run that gave them a lead they didn't relinquish until Villanova went ahead 74-73

with 30.7 seconds remaining Randy Foye, who led Villanove with 22 points, scored in the lane with 10 seconds to play to tie the game at 76. West Virginia didn't call a timeout and Patrick Beilein - the coach's son - let fly from

the right side with about 4 seconds left. Gansey grabbed the loose ball, went up and hit the bottom of the backboard. The ball came right back to him and he was fouled by Allan Ray.

"I just went up for a layup and they called a foul. I was like 'Oh my gosh.' I looked up at the clock and it was .2 and I thought I can't believe I'm in this situation," said Gansey, who finished with a career-high 22 points and 10 re-

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Replacement

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III.

# Iowa slays Mich. St.

The Associated Press

CHICAGO - Some day, after the season ends, Iowa coach Steve Alford is going to get a call from Wisconsin's Bo Rvan.

They'll exchange pleasantries, talk about how the summer's going, see how each other's family is doing. And then Ryan is going to pick Alford's brain.

"Steve's got something about this tournament," Ryan said after No. 23 Wisconsin beat Ohio State 60-49 Friday night to advance to the semifinals of the Big Ten tournament, setting up a matchup against Iowa. "He knows some thing about this tournament."

Four years after the Hawkeyes won four games in four days to capture the Big Ten title, they're it again. The scrappy bunch held off No. 13 Michigan State, thanks to some rare misses from the foul line by Alan Anderson and a clutch rebound from tiny reserve Jack Brownlee.

Anderson missed two free throws with 7 seconds left, and the 6-foot Brownlee came up with the rebound in the scrum. He made one of two free throws, and Jeff Horner stole the inbounds

pass to seal the 71-69 upset. In other games: top-ranked Illinois rebounded from its first loss of the year with a 60-49 rout of Northwestern, and Minnesota beat Indiana 71-55 to keep its NCAA tournament hopes alive.

#### **Big Ten**

Illinois (30-1) will play Minnesota (21-9) in a semifinal Saturday, and it is sure to be an emotional game for Illini coach Bruce Weber. Weber's mother, Dawn, died Friday night after surgery to repair a torn aorta. The 81-year-old widow was taken to the hospital after complaining of chest pains when she arrived at the United Center.

won its fifth Iowa (21-10) straight, rallying after leading scorer Pierre Pierce was kicked off the team for legal troubles

The loss was only the third in the past 15 games for the Spartans (22-6), whose seniors will leave without winning any Big Ten titles, regular season or tournament. The Spartans won four Big Ten titles from 1998-01

As the Iowa players rushed the court after the final buzzer, the Spartans looked dazed, knowing they'd let the game slip from their fingers. Michigan State, which came into the game as the best foul-shooting team in the nation, was just 15 of 30 from the line.

Anderson, a 90-percent free throw shooter, was five of 10.

Minnesota's win was critical. The Golden Gophers and Indiana (15-13) were both iffy for NCAA bids. But it wasn't much of a contest as Minnesota handed the Hoosiers their worst in the Big Ten tournament

### Top seeds roll to semis

BY DOUG TUCKER

The Associated Press KANSAS CITY, Mo. - The fa-

vorites prevailed on the second day of the Big 12 tournament. After two upsets in the first round, the higher seeds advanced in Friday's quarterfinal games.

It was a close call for third-seeded Oklahoma State, though. The 10th-ranked Cowboys 11th-seeded Colorado by 10 points with six minutes left in the last game of the night, then held off a frantic rally for an 87-85 victory.

'It was a barn-burner at the end," said Joey Graham, who led the Cowboys with 24 points and hit two free throws with 7.8 sec-onds left. "They came out and hit a lot of good shots on us.

Richard Roby led Colorado (14-16), the only No. 11 seed to make the quarterfinals in the tournament's nine-year history, with 21 points. He couldn't take the last shot, though, because he had fouled out in the closing seconds.

Instead, after Graham and Ivan McFarlin tangled while going for a defensive rebound and were called for traveling, Marcus Hall's last-second three-point try for Colorado bounced off the rim

Oklahoma State, the defending tournament champion, will face No. 9 Kansas in Saturday's semifinals. Texas Tech will meet top-seeded Oklahoma in the other semifinal.

Texas Tech beat Iowa State 64-56, and No. 17 Oklahoma won its seventh straight with an 83-79 victory over Missouri.

Kansas got to the semifinals via

**Big 12** 

an old, familiar route — with a victory over frustrated Kansas State. With Wayne Simien scoring 28 points and collecting 14 re-bounds, the Jayhawks beat the Wildcats for the 31st consecutive time, 80-67.

Wildcats fans had hoped the end of the streak could be at hand since the Jayhawks (23-5) had lost four of six and were without guard Keith Langford, who has an ankle injury and a stomach flu.

Instead, it was the same old story for the Wildcats (17-12). who have not beaten Kansas since January 1994. It's the most lopsided span ever in a spirited state rivalry that began in 1907.

"We didn't think they were vul-nerable at all," Kansas State senior Jeremiah Massey said. "They're one of the best teams in the country and we knew they were going to come out and fight."

The top-seeded Sooners (24-6) got 18 points, seven assists and two steals from Terrell Everett. who has keyed their winning streak

Missouri (16-16) hit a tourna ment-record 33 of 36 free throws and tied the school record with 23 in a row. Linas Kleiza had a career-high 33 points for the Tigers

Jarrius Jackson, who had 20 points. converted three last-minute turnovers into six free throws to seal Texas Tech's victory over Iowa State (18-11). The fourth-seeded Red Raiders (19-9) advanced to the semifinals

for the fourth straight year.



## Wildcats, Huskies hattle for crown

BY BETH HARRIS The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES - Arizona and Washington are similar in many ways, except for how each team got to the Pac-10 tournament final.



The No. 8 Wildcats won their two games by a combined 56 points. The 14th-ranked Huskies earned two vic-

tories by a total of eight They'll meet in Saturday's championship game at Staples Center, with the winner earning the conference's automatic NCAA bid. The runner-up is assured of a spot in the NCAAs, too

"I know Arizona has been a team that has been at the top or near the top of this conference for a long, long time," Washington coach Lorenzo Romar said "You aspire to be the best. We've had some good bat-

tles in the last few years." The top-seeded Wildcats (27-5) cruised past fifth-seeded Oregon State 90-59 in Friday's semifinals. The second-seeded Huskies (26-5), who have won six of their past seven games, defeated third-seeded Stanford 66-63.

Arizona had five players in double figures and used a 12-0 run at the start of the second half to blow out the Beavers (17-14) and advance to its fifth final

appearance in eight years. 'I was hoping we'd get an opportunity to play three games because I thought it would get us ready

for next week," said coach Lute Olson, who believes



#### Arizona's Channing Frve has made 89.5 percent of his field goal attempts in two tournament games.

Arizona has a chance to get a No. 1 seed in the NCAA tournament. "We'll try to get the Pony Express going

to get the word out East that we played well." Channing Frye led the Wildcats with 17 points. The senior has shot 89.5 percent in two tourney games.

Arizona has a record four Pac-10 tournament titles and its 15-3 tourney record is the league's best The Wildcats' 31-point winning margin set a tournament record, breaking its own mark of 26 points against Oregon State in the 1988 title game.

Bobby Jones scored 12 of his 14 points in the second half and Nate Robinson added 14 points for the Huskies against Stanford.

The Cardinal (18-12) beat Washington last Saturday, spoiling the Huskies' bid to earn a share of the regular-season title for the first time in 20 years.

"We knew they took something from us last eek," Jones said. "We can make up for it by winning the championship."

# St. Joseph's, GW to face off in final

CINCINNATI - Pat Carroll scored a career-high 30 points Friday night, including a decisive three-pointer with a minute left, and Saint Joseph's held off Xavier 73-68 to advance to the Atlantic 10 tournament title game.

The top-seeded Hawks (19-10) relied on the conference's co-Player of the Year to keep them in the running for their first tournament championship since 1997. Carroll had 20 points in the first half and made seven of 11 shots from behind the three-point arc

Carroll's left-handed shot from the right corner with a minute to go ended a comeback by Xavier (17-12), which cut a nine-point deficit to 64-63 with 1:28 remaining.

Both defenses had trouble keep ing up in a furious first half ties, six lead changes. Center Will Caudle steadied Xavier inside, scoring 12 points of his 14 points Carroll paced the Hawks by elud-ing defenders, darting off picks and hitting his first five shots, four of them from behind the arc Dedrick Finn's three-pointer his first basket after seven misses

- cut the Hawks' lead 61-58 with

Atlantic 10

4:26 left, leaving the outcome in Carroll's hands. He shot an air ball on a three-pointer with 1:57 to go, and Josh Duncan's free throw got Xavier within 64-63. Carroll then hit the three from the right corner

George Washington 77, Tem ple 58: J.R. Pinnock scored 16 points to lead the Colonials (21-7) into the title game, which it lost in 1991 and 1998

The Colonials' 15-1 run midway through the second half doomed Temple (16-13), which now must deal with the fallout of Hall of Fame coach John Chanev's actions. The coach was suspended for ordering Nehemiah Ingram — a reserve he called "a goon" — to get rough in a Feb. 22 game against Saint Joseph's. Ingram had a vicious foul on Saint Joseph's senior forward John Bryant that broke his arm.

Mark Tyndale led Temple with 18 points. Mardy Collins, the Owls' leading scorer at 18 points per game, finished with only six.

#### Conference tournaments

#### **America East**

Championship Saturday Vermont 80, Northeastern 57

#### Atlantic Coast

Priday
North Carolina 88, Clemson 81
Georgia Tech 73, Virginia Tech 54
N.C. State 81, Wake Forest 65
Duke 76, Virginia 64
Saturday
North Carolina vs. Georgia Tech
N.C. State vs. Duke

Championship

#### Atlantic 10

Saint Joseph's 73, Xavier 68 George Washington 77, Temple 58 Championship Saturday Saint Joseph's vs. George Washington

#### Big East

West Virginia 78, Villanova 76 Syracuse 67, Connecticut 63 Championship Saturday West Virginia vs. Syracuse

#### Big Ten

Illinois 68, Northwestern 51 Minnesota 71, Indiana 55 Iowa 71, Michigan State 69 Wisconsin 60, Ohio State 49 Saturday Championship

#### Big 12

Dig 12

Friday

#### **Big West**

Friday
Pacific 63, Cal State Northridge 61
Utah State 84, Cal State Fullerton 77 Championship Saturday Pacific vs. Utah State

#### Conference USA

Friday
Louisville 74, Alabama-Birmingham 64
Memphis 81, South Florida 68
Championship
Saturday
11-75 Memphis 74

#### Mid-American

Ohio 63, Miami (Ohio) 56
Buffalo 75, Western Michige
Championshi
Saturday
Ohio vs. Buffalo

#### Mid-Eastern Athletic

Priday
Delaware St. 61, South Carolina St. 48
Hampton 62, Coppin State 50
Championship
Saturday
Delaware State 55, Hampton 53

#### **Mountain West**

Friday Utah 73, UNLV 67 New Mexico 77, San Diego State 67 Championship Saturday

Iltah ve Now Me

#### Pacific-10

Friday Arizona 90, Oregon State 59 Washington 66, Stanford 63 Championship Saturday

#### Patriot League

Championship Friday Bucknell 61, Holy Cross 57

#### Southeastern

Alabama 69, Mississippi 52 Florida 80, Mississippi 52 Florida 80, Mississippi 5tate 64 Kentucky 76, Tennessee 62 LSU 89, Auburn 58 Saturday Sunday Florida vs. Kentucky/LSU

#### Southland Championship Sunday SE Louisiana at Northwestern State

#### Southwestern Athletic

Alabama State 54, Southern U. 50
Alabama A&M 74, Jackson State 56
Championship Sunday Alabama State vs. Alabama A&M

#### Western Athletic

Friday Texas-El Paso 85, Rice 77 Saturday
Texas-El Paso vs. Boise State

# Vermont, Bucknell win titles

BURLINGTON, Vt. - Taylor Coppenrath scored 37 points Sat-urday to lead Vermont to an 80-57 victory over Northeastern for its third straight America East Conference title and NCAA tourna-

Vermont held Northeastern star Jose Juan Berea to 14 points before he left early in the second half with an ankle injury.

Vermont, which led 48-34 at

halftime, shot 54 percent from the floor and 41 percent from three-point range. Northeastern. which has won the conference tournament a league-best seven times, shot 36 percent.

#### Mid-Eastern Athletic

Delaware St. 55, Hampton 53: At Richmond, Va., Aaron Williams made a 10-foot shot with 2 seconds left in the title game to boost the Hornets (19-13) to their first NCAA tournament berth The Hornets trailed for most of

the game, but Jahsha Bluntt's three-pointer tied it 53-53 with 1:08 left, and Williams collected a loose ball and swished his shot to cap the comeback against Hampton (17-13). On Friday:

#### Patriot League

Bucknell 61. Holy Cross 57: At Worcester, Mass., Kevin Bettencourt made two free throws with 8 seconds left as Bucknell (22-9) held on to beat regular-season champion Holy Cross (24-6) in the tournament final after blowing most of a 20-point lead. Bucknell led 33-13 in the first

half but Holy Cross closed to 59-57 with 58 seconds left. Holy Cross' Kevin Hamilton

missed a tying basket and Bettencourt was fouled on the rebound. The Bison will make their first

#### **Conference tourneys**

appearance in the NCAA tournament since 1989

#### **Big West**

No. 18 Pacific 63, CS Northridge 61: At Anaheim, Calif., Tyler Newton made two free throws with 22 seconds left and Guillaume Yango had 15 points and eight rebounds to help the top-seeded Tigers (26-2) win their 22nd straight game — the longest streak in the nation — and extend their Big West winning streak to 34 games

The fourth-seeded Matadors (17-13) overcame a 12-point defi-cit in the second half and led 61-60 with a minute to play

Utah St. 84, Cal St.-Fullerton 77: Nate Harris and Cass Matheus each scored 21 points to lead the second-seeded Aggies (23-7) over the third-seeded Titans (19-10).

#### Western Athletic UTEP 85. Rice 77: At Reno

Nev., Omar Thomas scored 29 of his 31 points in the second half, and Giovanni St. Amant added 15 points on five three-pointers for the second-seeded Miners (26-7), who won their sixth straight game. Michael Harris scored 19 points for third-seeded Rice (19-11), which had won six in a row and led by four with less than 12 minutes left.

Boise St. 86, Fresno St. 85: Jason Ellis scored 25 points and Coby Karl made two game-win-ning free throws with 8.7 seconds left as the eighth-seeded Broncos (16-17) continued their improbable run. Ja'Vance Coleman had 26 points for the Bulldogs (16-14).

No. 15 Utah 73. UNLV 67: At Denver, Andrew Bogut had 25 points and 12 rebounds, and defending tournament champion Utah nearly blew a 22-point lead in a semifinal game, Utah (27-4) held UNLV (16-13) to two points during a 7-minute span to go up by 14 late in the first half, then opened the second with a 10-2 run that made it 42-20.

New Mexico 77, San Diego St. 67: Danny Granger had 22 points and 14 rebounds to lift the Lobos (25-6), whose schedule strength is ranked 298th. Marcus Slaugh ter (23 points) and Brandon Heath (22 points) had their second straight brilliant games for the sixth-seeded Aztecs (11-18)

#### Mid-American

Buffalo 75, W. Michigan 68: At Cleveland, Yassin Idbihi scored 17 points to lead the seventh-seeded Bulls (22-8) into the conference championship game for the first time. Buffalo became a Division I school in 1991. Third-seeded Western Michigan (19-12) failed in its attempt to become the first repeat champion since Kent State in 2002.

Ohio 63, Miami (Ohio) 56: Sonny Troutman scored 19 points and made three three-pointers in the second half to help the fourth-seeded Bobcats (20-10) reach the title game for the first time since 1994. Nathan Peavy scored 15 points for Miami (19-10)

#### Southwestern Athletic

Alabama St. 54. Southern U. 50: At Birmingham, Ala., Kevin Spicer had 14 points and 10 rebounds to lead the Hornets (15-14) past the Jaguars (14-15) and into the title game against Al-abama A&M (17-13).

# So close, so far away

### Missed free throws cost Memphis

BY TERESA M. WALKER The Associated Press

MEMPHIS, Tenn. - Memphis freshman Darius Washington missed two of three free throws with no time left on the clock, allowing No. 6 Louisville to escape with a 75-74 victory and the Conference USA championship on

Saturday Louisville's Brad Gianiny hit one of two free throws with 6.7 seconds to give Louisville a two-point lead.

Memphis hustled downcourt and the ball went to Washington, who dribbled toward the top of the key for a shot. He was fouled by Louisville's Francisco Garcia as he threw up a shot, drawing

three free throws. He hit the first, but then bounced the next two off the rim. After missing the last one, which would have forced overtime, he dropped to his knees and pulled his jersey over his head. He then collapsed on the floor as his teammates ran to console him.

Meanwhile, Louisville players celebrated an unlikely victory and the Cardinals' first sweep of the Conference USA regular-season and tournament titles in the school's last outing as a league member. Louisville moves to the Big East next season.

Louisville (29-4), which won its second C-USA tournament title in three years, heads into the NCAA tournament riding a nine-game winning streak, its longest winning streak of the season. The Cardinals have won 18 of their last 19, the only defeat coming at home against Memphis

Garcia finished with 19 points. Taquan Dean and Juan Palacios each had 14 and Palacios had 11 rebounds. Larry O'Bannon fin-ished with 13 for Louisville, including 3-for-3 from three-point

Memphis (19-15), playing on its home court, came in knowing its only hope of playing in the NCAA tournament was beating Louis ville for the league's automatic The Tigers nearly pulled it off after winning three games to

reach their first tournament final Memphis' Jeremy Hunt tied the game 71-71 with a free throw, but missed the second. Louisville got the rebound, but Memphis' Duane Erwin tipped the ball away from Dean to Washington whose layup gave the Tigers a 73-71 lead with 42.7 seconds left.

O'Bannon answered with a three-pointer from the top of the key and Louisville led 74-73 with 27 seconds to play. He was fouled on the shot, but missed the free

It appeared Memphis' last chance went by the board when Hunt was called for charging on a drive to the basket with 7.7 secremaining. Gianiny was fouled on the inbounds play and hit his first free throw. His miss on the second cleared the way for the tense finish.



Darius Washington hides his head after missing two free throws that would have won the Conference USA tournament title game and a berth in the NCAA tournament. Louisville won the game 75-74.

Washington had 23 points and six assists and Anthony Rice added 20 points for Memphis. In Friday's games:

No. 6 Louisville 74, UAB 67: Francisco Garcia scored 11 of his 13 noints in the second half Taquan Dean, who shot 1-for-7 in the first half, finished with a team-high 15 points and 11 re-

Memphis 81, South Florida 68: Darius Washington scored 20 points and Anthony Rice, shooting from long-range early, added 19 as Memphis (19-14) continued

### Kentucky routs Vols; favorites roll in SEC

BY PAUL NEWBERRY The Associated Press

ATLANTA - The Southeastern Conference tournament always brings out the best in Kentucky

The No. 4 Wildcats bounced back from a rare loss with a more typical performance in the SEC quarterfinals, cruising past Tennessee 76-62 on Friday night.

Kelenna Azubuike scored 18 oints and Patrick Sparks added 16 for Kentucky, which has lost only three times in its last 36 tournament games.

This one was never in doubt. The Wildcats (24-4) had a double-digit lead before the game was six minutes old, and they stretched the margin to 34-14 after Sparks drove the lane with more than five minutes left in the

opening half. 'We wanted to come out and play with passion, a sense of urgency," Kentucky senior Chuck Hayes said.

Kentucky, which already won the league's regular-season title, is going for its third straight tournament title. The Wildcats have won the tournament 10 of the past 13 years, bringing their overall haul to 25 championships - more than the other 11 schools com-

Kentucky closed the regular season with a 53-52 loss at Florida, but there was no carry-over

five days later against Tennessee

You can't win every game," Wildcats coach Tubby Smith said. We know that.

LSU 89, Auburn 58: LSU stretched its winning (20-8)streak to seven games and reached 20 victories for the third time in six years under coach John Brady.

Auburn (14-17), which upset Vanderbilt in the opening round, trailed 46-26 at halftime.

Glen Davis, a 300-pounder selected as the league's top freshman, connected on nine of 11 shots, and scored 24 points.

Florida 80, Mississippi State 64: The Gators (21-7) are starting to look like a strong contender for their first-ever SEC tournament title after winning their fifth straight game. Matt Walsh made five three-pointers and Anthony Roberson and Corey Brewer hit three apiece for Florida, which also held a 41-26 rebounding edge over Mississippi State (22-10), the league's top rebounding team.

No. 20 Alabama 69, Mississippi 52: Earnest Shelton made a ca-reer-high eight three-pointers during a 26-point performance that pushed the Crimson Tide (24-6) into the semifinals.

The senior guard became the fourth player to hit eight three-pointers in an SEC tournament game.





#### N.C. State answers ACC Wake-up call BY KEITH PARSONS The Associated Press

WASHINGTON - Finally, the North Carolina State Wolf can call themselves an NCAA tournament team. Maybe.

"I don't see a reason why we shouldn't be in." Wolfpack forward Ilian Evtimov said. "I know that's what they're looking for, teams that can come through and we just showed it."

Julius Hodge led a balanced attack with 22 points and Evtimov added 18 points and seven assists, helping N.C. State upset No. 3 Wake Forest 81-65 Friday night in the quarterfinals of the Atlantic Coast Conference tournament.

For the Wolfpack, the victory was particularly sweet, consider ing how they lost to the Demon Deacons earlier this week in the final game of the regular season. Justin Gray hit a tying three-pointer in the final minute, and Chris Paul beat the buzzer with a runner to win it.

But Paul's actions earlier in the game drew most of the attention. He punched Hodge in the groin, and was suspended by his school for this game for his actions.

"We used that as motivation," N.C. State guard Cameron Bennerman said. "Ain't no need to go out and sucker-punch somebody or take somebody out. That isn't necessary. We just wanted to come out here and get a win."

The Wolfpack (19-12) shot 51 percent and consistently beat defenders to the rim on backdoor



Julius Hodge celebrates North Carolina State's upset of Wake Forest in the ACC tournament

cuts, with everybody getting a chance in their Princeton-style offense. Bennerman, starting in place of the injured Tony Bethel (groin), had 17 points, eight rebounds and five assists.

Eric Williams and Gray each had 17 points for Wake (26-5).

No. 5 Duke 64, Virginia 64: Duke assumed its customary spot in the ACC tournament semifinals despite a horrid shooting performance by guard J.J. Redick. Redick, who came in averaging

team-high 22.6 points, missed 11 of his first 12 shots and finished 4-for-17. Daniel Ewing and Lee Melchionni picked up the slack by scoring 16 points apiece, and Shelden Williams had 10 points and 12 rebounds.

Virginia (14-15) might have played its final game under coach Pete Gillen.

No. 2 North Carolina 88, Clem son 81: Raymond Felton gets most of the credit for top-seeded North Carolina being able to avoid the biggest upset in ACC tournament history.

The all-ACC point scored a career-high 29 points and nailed a go-ahead three-pointer with the shot clock winding down in the final 90 seconds.

Since the conference expanded to nine teams in 1992, no ninth-seeded team has beaten the No. 1 seed. The Tar Heels (27-3) trailed by 13 points with about nine minutes left before rallying behind Felton

Georgia Tech 73, Virginia Tech 54: Georgia Tech pulled away at the start of the second half to ruin the Atlantic Coast Conference tournament debut of Virginia Tech (15-13).

Georgia Tech (18-10), seeded fifth, overcame 22 turnovers to end a streak of 12 games in which it had alternated wins and losses

"We've been struggling with trying to put wins together," said guard Jarrett Jack, who scored 13 points. "I think there's been certain games that we've controlled the majority of and let slip through our fingers. Hopefully this weekend we can get some momentum and put some wins together

# Ramstein wins powerlifting championship | Small Units haskethall

Stare and Strings

HEIDELBERG, Germany Two lifters and the Ramstein team made the most of their chances Saturday in the U.S. Military National Powerlifting Men's Women's Championships held at a European venue for the first time

Rhonda Clark of Fort Hood. Texas, a reigning U.S. national seniors champion at 165 pounds, collected her fourth military record in the deadlift, raising 195 kilograms - 429 pounds - from the floor to her waist on her second try in the event to give her a three-lift total of 946.5 pounds.

And the only person in the Patton Barracks gym who was not im-pressed was Clark, who competed Saturday in the 181-pound divi-

"I'm a better deadlifter at 148 than I am at 181," she said, "but [her teammates] were teasing me that since I held the record for 132 148 and 165 nounds. Lought to go for 181 and have them all."

Even that sweep failed to im-

"Put me at 148, and I'll set records all day," she said. "I'm a natural deadlifter. I have long arms, a short trunk and flexible hips.

Clark, chosen outstanding female lifter of the meet, used her record lift to claim gold medals in the 181 open and masters divi-

But it wasn't enough for the Fort Hood Phantom Corps team to claim its 12th military team title in 13 years. U.S. Forces-Europe champion Ramstein finished the competition with 90 points, four more than the Texas-based lifters, who had to settle for sec-

Horace Youson of Ramstein added the U.S. national military gold medal at 165 pounds to the Forces-Europe championship he won on the same floor last month. He said Ramstein used a team concept to win the title.

"We work out together three or



Ramstein's Samuel Stroman benches 347 pounds in the USA Powerlifting Military National Championships in Heidelberg, Germany, on Saturday,

four mornings a week," Youson said. "It really helps."

Youson was one of five Ramstein lifters winning gold medals on Saturday.

The others were 181-pounder Jimmy Scott and 220-pound king Troy Saunders, who, like Youson, are holders of 2005 U.S. Forces Europe titles; 242-pound champ Derrick Baldwin, second at that weight to teammate Robin Riley in the USFE meet; and 275-pound er Willie Williams, third in the USFE meet behind a pair of Grafenwöhr performers who did not compete here.

Riley did compete Saturday and elevated the most mass of any lifter, 600.75 pounds in the deadlift, before passing on further attempts because of a sore

back. A zero in the bench press ruined his hopes.

U.S. Ramstein's 181-pound champion Samuel Strohman, second in the category here, nonetheless was chosen outstanding lifter in the juniors division. Saunders and Scott won outstanding lifter trophies in their weight classes.

Joining them as an outstanding lifter was 165-pound masters king Carlos Lewis of Fort Gordon, Ga. Lewis was a 2002 national champion and 2003 national military champion before spending 2004 in Iraq.

The heaviest one-event lift of the afternoon went to Ramstein's who squatted 617.25 pounds in the first of the three lifts

E-mail Rusty Bryan at: bryanr@mail.estripes.osd.mil



RAYMOND T. CONWAY/Stars and Strin Rhonda Clarke from Fort Hood Texas, dead lifts a military national record 429 pounds Saturday.

#### U.S. Military National Powerlifting

Men's & Women's Championships HEIDELBERG, Germany — Top finishers i he 2005 U.S. Military National Powerliftin Men's and Women's Championships on Sat Irrday, Results are in kilograms and are fo iquat, bench, deadlift and total.

Women
Open
Open
Open
148 pounds—Tracep Briggs, Heidelberg,
625, 525, 85,0=200.0
166 pounds—Korne-pounds Open
166 pounds—Robert Open
167 pounds—Robert Open
168 p

Men Open 165 pounds—Horace Youson, Ramsteir AB, Germany, 232.5, 152.5, 217.5=602.5; Ken yatta Wilson, Ramstein, 145, 117.5 192.5=455; Albert Montgomery, Heidelberg Germany, 140, 132.5, 182.5=455 181 pounds—David Femant

Germany, 140, 132.5, 182.5=455

181 pounds – David Emeott, SHAPE, Belgium, 197.5, 140, 215=552.5; Samuel Stroman Ramstein, 175, 157.5, 192.5=525.

198 pounds – Jimmy Scott, Ramstein, 255 187.5, 272.5=715; Kurt Mattison, Ramstein

1875, 272.5=715; Kurt Mattison, Ramstein, 230, 1775, 220-6273, Brandon Hutson, Vicen-2a, Italy, 185, 1825, 239–597.5 220 pounds—Troy Saunders, Ramstein, 260, 1855, 247.5=692.5; Robert Geyer, Ft. Hood, 2075, 1522, 210=559. Darren Dent, Ft. Hood, 2075, 152, 210=559. Darren Dent, Ft. Hood, 2075, 130–131.5 2 Juniors 2

Masters 165 pounds — Carlos Lewis, Ft. Gordon, Ga., 230, 150, 225=605.0 220 pounds—Cliff Mannis, San Antonio, Texas, 170, 137.5, 235=542.5 242 pounds—Derrick Baldwin, Ramstein, 227.5, 185, 232-5=645, Erik Hoskinson, III lesheim, Germany, 182.5, 192.5, 205=580; Fred Lehman, Heidelberg, 182.5, 182.5, 210=575.5

210=5/5.5 275 pounds—Willie Williams, Ramstein, 237.5, 165, 250=652.5

237.5, 165, 250-652.5 "minaris, Martistelli, 200 Outstanding lifters Women—boundaris, R.I. Hood Men—Light Lifter, 11 Hood Men—Light Lifter, 200 Carolina Stein Master Heavyweight: Troy Saunders, Ramstein Master heavyweight: Curt Mattison, Ramstein; Junior lightweight: Carol Saunders, Ramstein; Junior lightweight: Samuel Stroman, Ramstein; Junior heavyweight, Donald Collier, R.I. Hood

### basketball title won by Menwith Hill

Stare and Strings

Forward Ike Nelson scored in the final seconds of the second overtime to lift Menwith Hill to a 55-53 victory over Geilenkirchen in the championship game of the 2005 USAFE Small Units Basketball tournament on Saturday.

After a timeout, Geilenkirchen rushed the ball down court but guard Terry three-point attempt hit the front of the rim

The Jammers won their second close game in the five-day tournament at RAF Rairford, England. On Thursday, they won 59-58 in pool play.

Menwith Hill, which finished undefeated in the 10-team tournament, trailed 26-22 at halftime in the final, but rallied behind two three-pointers by Lionel Jennings to tie the game 43-43 at the end of regulation.

The teams each scored four points in the first overtime before Nelson hit his winner with 4.4 seconds left.

Nelson's 17 points led a balanced attack for Menwith Hill, which got 10 from Calvin Dixon, nine from Jennings and eight each from Karim Cheetum and Courtney Cunningham.

Connell Wright, the tourney's high scorer through three days of pool play, led Geilenkirchen with 22 points. Tim Teamer added 12 and Hankton 10.

#### **USAFE** small units

RAF FAIRFORD, England — Final results of ne 2005 USAFE small units basketball tour-



Stavanger; Stan Wheaton, Fairford; Jacob Poole, St. Mawgan; Calvin Dixon and Lione Jennings, Menwith Hill; Mark Cave Rhein-Main; Bobby Drayton, Lajes; Corey ncan, Alc

#### Time away pays for snowboarders was ready to go at Garmisch last

BY BEN MURRAY Stars and Stripes

GARMISCH, Germany - A little time away from snowboarding may have benefited two top competitors on the opening day of the 2005 Chrysler U.S. Forces Eu-Ski and Snowboarding Championships on Saturday.

Spc. Christopher Rawlings and Simia Ranieri, civilian Simia Ranieri, who burned their way through the slalom course Garmisch-Partenkirchen to win their divisions, both had taken multi-year respites from board-Of the two, Rawlings' return

has taken longer. The New Hampshire native broke his neck while snowboarding seven years ago, and has been gingerly working himself back into the sport.

After competing in two races two years ago. Rawlings said he

year, but he was deployed to Iraq with his unit, Company B from Mannheim's 72nd Signal Bri-On Saturday, Rawlings was the

fastest active-duty snowboarder on the hill, with a two-run time of 1:53.22, winning the men's open category.

"I thought the course was going to be a lot bigger, more aggres-sive," Rawlings said of a run that many boarders found too flat in

Rawlings' time was bested only by the fastest man on the mountain Saturday, civilian Matt Bush from Heidelberg, who won the men's senior division in a time of 1:47.61.

For Ranieri, the fastest female on two edges Saturday, this winter is the first one in a snowy clime since she left Montana for Hawaii four years ago

Ranieri, a Garmisch local and 12-year veteran of the sport who has some competition experience she broke her nose in a race several years ago - said Saturday's run was "mostly just for

Although her time of 2:02.21 was the women's best of the day, organizers ruled that since she is a member of the ski patrol she was ineligible to win.

As a result, all three women's categories were combined into one and civilian Marie Tucker, a championship regular from Aviano, Italy, was declared the winner with a time of 2:05 16

The men's masters winner was civilian Bryan Schulte from Oberammergau, who had a time of 2:01.57

Among those Schulte beat was 53-year-old Vernon Hodges of



Garmisch, who said he defines victory by a different set of parameters.

"When you're 53 years old, you're happy just to wake up breathing in the morning." he

At the other end of the age spec trum, Nicolina Boretti from Garmisch won the girls youth cat-egory with a time of 2:28.87, and

onships in Garmisch, Germanv. on Saturday. Rawlings was the fastest active-duty competitor in the BEN MURRAY/Stripes

Spc. Christopher Rawlings shoulders his way past a gate

in the U.S. Forces

Snowboard Champi

Europe Ski and

Stephen Murta of Stuttgart took the boys title in 2:02.51.

About 80 snowboarders competed in races on the windswent Hausberg course. They preceded the second of the weekend's three events, the skiers' giant slalom, More than 200 competitors were entered in that race, which is followed by the slalom on Sunday.

E-mail Ben Murray at: murrayb@mail.estripes.osd.mil

# Gebhardt. Sorlie get to Anvik in Iditarod

ANVIK, Alaska - Paul Geb-hardt was the first musher to reach the Yukon River early Friday, yet Norwegian musher Robert Sorlie was poised to take the lead as the 1,100-mile Iditarod Trail Sled Dog race wound up its fifth day.



Sorlie reached Anvik six hours after Gebhardt, but holds a decided advantage the mandatory

hecause 24-hour lavover period required of all teams

Sorlie has already taken his layover while Gebbardt was planning to take his break in Anvik As a result, Sorlie could leave the Yukon checkpoint before the Alaskan musher and take the lead, at temporarily, as the race heads toward the coast of Norton Sound

For being first to the Yukon, Gebhardt won a luxurious dinner such distinctly non-trail fare as braised musk ox. shitake mushroom stew and buffalo tenderloin with peppercorn sauce. He also received 3,500 crisp \$1 bills.

Anvik is more than half way to the finish line in Nome. Race spokesman Chas St. George said the other top 10 mushers were bunched up coming out of Shageluk, farther back on the trail. All the top 20 mushers except Gebhardt have taken their lavovers.

Sorlie already achieved one goal in the race earlier this week by being the first to reach the halfway point in the village of Iditarod, the checkpoint before Shage luk. He received \$4,000 in gold nuggets. Sorlie won the race to Nome in 2003.

Four-time winner Martin Buser, 46, of Big Lake reached Anvik at mid-afternoon Friday. Ramy Brooks of Healy was close behind him out of Shageluk, traveling 8.1 mph - the fastest pace of the top five.

DeeDee Jonrowe, in sixth place, was the only other musher to reach 8 mph.

They're all jockeying for posi-St. George said. "Now it's a race. When you get to Anvik you'll see the times speed up.

That's partly because for the first half of the race, the trail is not used locally and the lead teams have to plow through the

Now the front-runners are getting into areas of well-used trails between villages

Until now, St. George said, the leaders had been averaging 4.5 to 5.5 mph "except Buser. For some reason he's continuing to make good time. I think he'll be planning on a little spurt here."

The trail heads northeast out of

Anvik, following the Yukon to Grayling, Eagle Island and Kaltag. Then it swings west to Shak-



Bill Steyer, from Fairbanks, Alaska, gets ready to head out of the Takotna. Alaska, checkpoint on the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race on Friday.

toolik and other villages along Norton Sound before the final stretch to Nome on the Seward Peninsula.

Rick Swenson, the five-time winner of the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race, dropped out Thursday -- the first time he's scratched from the race in 29 vears

The 54-year-old musher from Two Rivers officially withdrew after returning to the checkpoint at McGrath, 722 miles from the finish line. Swenson told race managers he was concerned about the well-being of his dog

"It's even more disappointing considering he's saying this could be his last race," St. George said. "The problem for Rick — he cares so much about his dogs. If he's not going to be a contender he's not going to waste their abili-

By noon Friday, seven mushers had scratched, including Cliff Wang of Lincoln, Mont. That leaves 72 mushers in the running. The total nurse of the 33rd run-

ning of the Iditarod is \$750.107. winner receives \$72,066,67

#### Still no progress in NHL talks. but sides to reconvene

NEW YORK - There were fresh NHL labor talks with the same old refrain

"No progress was made towards a new collective bargaining agreement," NHL chief legal officer Bill Daly said Friday in a statement.

The league and the players' as sociation met for 11/2 hours Friday in Toronto and expect to talk more next week. This session wasn't really for bargaining purnoses, but more to set the tone for upcoming discussions.

The meeting that began around noon was the first between the sides since Feb. 19 — three days after Commissioner Gary Bettman canceled the 2004-05 season.

#### Stenson shoots 66 for two-stroke lead in Qatar

DOHA, Qatar - Henrik Stenon of Sweden shot a 6-under 66 on Saturday in the Qatar Masters to take a two-stroke lead over Niclas Fasth and Richard Green, while Ernie Els was five strokes behind.

Fasth of Sweden carded a 69 in the third round and Green of Australia had a 73 at the 7,311-yard Doha Golf Club. Els. the only top-50 player in the event, posted

a second straight 69.

#### Wetterich leads Janzen in Honda Classic

PALM BEACH GARDENS Fla - Brett Wetterich shot his second straight 6-under 66 to take one-stroke lead over two-time U.S. Open champion Lee Janzen after the second round of the

Janzen, seeking his first tournament title since 1998, shot a 64 First-round leader Chad Campbell bogeyed two of the final four holes for a 71 to drop into a tie for third with Robert Damron (65) at

Vijay Singh, whose six-month reign at No. 1 ended when Tiger Woods supplanted him last week was 4 under after a 69

#### Aoki in front in SRC Classic

SANTA CLARITA, Calif. Isao Aoki shot a 3-under 69 in difficult scoring conditions to take a one-stroke lead over Mike Reid Champions Tour rookie Johnson after the first round of the SBC Classic

Aoki, the 62-year-old Japanese star who was inducted into the World Golf Hall of Fame last year, had five birdies and two bogevs on the Valencia Country Club course as wind, thick rough and fast greens sent scores so

Raymond Floyd, Des Smyth Bob Gilder and D.A. Weibring opened with 71s, and Craig Sta dler, Jerry Pate, Mark McNulty Tom Purtzer, Don Pooley, Keith Fergus and Don Reese shot 72s Hale Irwin had a 73, ending his string of under-par rounds at 11.

#### Cliisters takes another step in comeback at Indian Wells

INDIAN WELLS, Calif. - Kim Cliisters took another step in her comeback, defeating Shinobu Asagoe 6-3, 6-3 Friday in the wom-en's second round of the Pacific Life Open.

Clijsters was the 2003 champion at Indian Wells, when boyfriend Lleyton Hewitt took the men's title.

Much has happened to Clijsters since then, including a wrist injury in this tournament a year ago and a broken engagement with

Clijsters, a 21-year-old native f Belgium, underwent surgery on her left wrist last June, then had more trouble with it later in the year.

### Newman takes pole at yet another track

BY JENNA FRYER The Associated Press

LAS VEGAS - Ryan Newman was the third driver to attempt to qualify at Las Vegas Motor Speedway. Once he posted his lap, the suspense was over.

Newman ran a flawless lap at 173.745 mph in a Dodge Charger on Friday to win the pole for the UAW-DaimlerChrysler 400 and knock the track off the short list of places he had yet to master.

That was pretty impressive on my part as far as just getting speed," he said. "I felt like I pretty much nailed everything. somebody else beats us, it's be-cause they beat us." Nobody did.

Newman, who has won 28 poles in his career, has now claimed the top qualifying spot at all but nine of the 22 Nextel Cup venues.

Elliott Sadler qualified second in a Ford at 173.712, and Greg Biffle was third in a Ford at 173.182. Kevin Harvick was fourth in a Chevrolet, but did not qualify with a full tank of gas as required this season and will have to go to the rear of the field.

He was followed by Scott Riggs, who will be forced to go to the rear because he changed the transmission in his Chevy. Kurt Rusch, the series champi-

n and a Las Vegas native, qualified sixth. In qualifying for Saturday's

Busch Series race, Carl Edwards turned a lap at 170.951 mph to became the first Busch rookie to nut his car on the pole at Las Vegas Motor Speedway.

#### **UAW-DaimlerChrysler 400** lineup

NASCAR Nextel Cup

NASCAR Nextel Cup
After Friday qualifying: race Sunday
At Las Vegas Motor Speedway
Las Vegas
Las Vegas
Las Vegas
Las Vegas
Los (97) Kurt Busch, Ford, 171.865.
 (77) Travis Kvapil, Dodge, 171.717.
 (9) Kasey Kahne, Dodge, 171.527.
 (9) Kasey Kahne, Dodge, 171.527.
 (17) Matt Kenseth, Ford, 170.946.
 (48) Jimmie Johnson, Chevrolet, 170.812.
 (1) Kyle Busch, Chevrolet, 170.832.
 (1) (24) Jeff Gordon, Chevrolet, 170.336.

(24) Jeff Gordon, Chevrolet, 170.336.
 (201) Joe Nemechek, Chevrolet, 170.283.
 (38) Dale Jarrett, Ford, 163.934.
 (49) Ken Schrader, Dodge, 169.886.
 (32) Bobby Hamilton Jr., Chevrolet, 169.817.

69.817.
17. (11) Jason Leffler, Chevrolet, 169.806.
18. (0) Mike Bilss, Chevrolet, 169.753.
18. (0) Mike Martin, Ford, 169.753.
20. (99) Carl Edwards, Ford, 169.258.
20. (99) Carl Edwards, Ford, 169.258.
20. (99) Carl Edwards, Ford, 169.258.
22. (24) Jamie McMurray, Dodge, 169.199.
23. (20) Tony Stewart, Chevrolet, 169.173.
24. (31) Jeff Burton, Chevrolet, 169.175.
25. (40) Sterling Marjin, Dodge, 169.363.
26. (19) Sterling Marylet, Dodge, 269.729.
27. (19) Torent Marylet, 169.165.
28. (20) Sterling Marylet, 169.165.
29. (20) St (7) Robby Gordon, Chevrolet, 168.729 (22) Scott Wimmer, Dodge, 168.676. (22) Scott Winmer, Dodge, 1885.69.
 (07) Dave Blaney, Chevrolet, 168.503.
 (4) Mike Wallace, Chevrolet, 168.439.
 (3) (3) (4) Noby Laborte, Chevrolet, 168.345.
 (2) Brlan Vickers, Chevrolet, 167.937.
 (3) Zing, Chevrolet, 167.717.
 (4) Dale Earnhardt Jr., Chevrolet, 167.937.

35. (45) Kyle Petty, Dodge, 167.017. 36. (15) Michael Waltrin, Chevrolet.

166.631. 37. (14) John Andretti, Ford, 166.164. (14) John Andretti, Ford, 166.164.
 (38, (34) Randy LaJole, Chevrolet, 165.787.
 (43) Jeff Green, Dodge, 165.695.
 (66) Hermie Sadler, Ford, 165.350.
 (173) Eric McClure, Chevrolet, 165.279.
 (29) Kevin Harvick, Chevrolet, time dis llowed.

llowed. 43. (89) Morgan Shepherd, Dodge, 165.234. Failed to qualify

43. (89) Morgan Shepherd, Dodge, 165.234.
Failed to qualify
44. (09) Johnny Sauter, Dodge, 165.163.
45. (37) Kevin Lepage, Dodge, 164.810.
46. (92) Stanton Barrett, Chevrolet, 164.444.
47. (79) Stan Boyd, Chevrolet, 164.244.
48. (00) Carl Long, Chevrolet, 162.660.
49. (27) Kirk Shelmerdine, Ford.

#### Overall: Miller overcomes slump, wraps up title technical problem. It's a matter of OVERALL, FROM BACK PAGE

Miller then hit a three-month

World Cup winless streak, although he did win gold medals in the downhill and super-G in last month's world championships which do not count in the World Cup standings. The American's 400-point lead

over Raich in December shrank to 52 points entering this week's World Cup finals. With the pressure on, however,

and the season growing shorter. Miller responded with three top performances. He finished sec ond in Thursday's downhill, snapped his winless streak Friday by sharing a super giant slalom victory with teammate Daron Rahlyes - taking the World Cup super-G title in the process — and then clinched the overall with another podium performance Satur-

"I felt like I was geared to race." Miller said. "I did what I came to do."

Miller began his career as a technical specialist excelling in slalom and giant slalom. This season he also became one of the ton speed skiers, winning for the first time in super-G and downhill.

"I was consistently top five all season except for the slalom," Miller said. "It's never been a execution. Schleper captures first win;

#### Kostelic narrows gap

LENZERHEIDE, Switzerland - Sarah Schleper of the United States recorded her first World Cup victory in the season's final slalom Saturday while Janica Kostelic finished second to close in on overall leader Anja Paerson.

Schlener was joined by team. mates Lindsev Kildow, Julia Mancuso and Resi Stiegler in the finish area, where they jumped on ton of each other

"My teammates were really reat," Schleper said. "I think I great. lost my voice screaming so much.

Schleper covered the two runs on the Silvano Beltrametti course in 1 minute, 29.13 seconds, maintaining her lead from the first

Kostelic of Croatia was 0.34 seconds behind and Nicole Hosp of Austria was 0.90 back for third. Tanja Poutiainen of Finland tied Martina Ertl of Germany for fourth.

Paerson finished in 10th place and now has 1,359 points in the overall World Cup standings, 35 more than Kostelic with only Sunday's season-ending giant slalom

# **Chargers cut Flutie; Favre gives fans good news**

Doug Flutie is out of job in San Diego, leaving the 42-year-old quarterback's NFL future in doubt.

Flutie was released Friday by the Chargers, who would have had to pay him a roster bonus of \$350,000 on Tuesday. The 1984 Heisman Trophy winner, best

known for the desperation pass that beat the University of Miami that had two years left on his contract



depth chart.

behind Drew Brees, Philip Rivers second-year man Lemon, who the team likes as a developmental quarterback.

Meanwhile, two other veteran quarterbacks changed teams on Friday and Brett Favre delivered the good news to Green Bay Packers fans in person.

Former Miami starter Fiedler signed with the New York Jets to back up Chad Pennington. Fiedler's experience gives the Jets insurance in case Penning ton is slow to recover from surgery on his rotator cuff

The Jets also signed former Philadelphia and Cleveland linebacker Barry Gardner, and Miami re-signed backup quarterback Sage Rosenfels to a one-year deal

Mike McMahon, Joey Har-rington's backup in Detroit, signed with Philadelphia, where he will compete with Koy Detmer to be No. 2 behind Donovan Mc-Nabh

One day after news broke that Favre had decided against retirthe three-time NFL MVP filled in Packers fans during the team's first Fan Fest

Former Packer and broadcast-er Larry McCarren opened Favre's appearance with the question on everyone's mind: "Can we hear it from your lips? Are you coming back for another season?"
"Yes I am," Favre replied as fans erunted in cheers.

"I still love to play the game, I still feel I can play at a high level. My wife said, 'Go back and

play. Flutie, who at 5-foot-10 always had to battle questions about his size, played for Chicago, New England, Buffalo and San Diego in the NFL. He also had an eight-year stint in the CFL and started his career with the now-defunct USFL

His last start came in the Chargers' regular-season finale against Kansas City, when Brees was rested for the playoffs. He scrambled around, as he often did, and threw one touchdown pass.

Flutie could be back

"I think Doug definitely wants to try and play at least for another year," his agent, Kristen Kuliga, said from Boston. "I'll be looking at what opportunities might be out there, with a team that wants



a quality backup quarterback." Dallas suffered a setback when newly signed guard Marco Riv-

era underwent back surgery. Rivera, who signed with Dallas after being released by Green Bay, underwent surgery to repair a bulging disk in his back just a signing bonus. He is expected to

be ready for training camp Rivera had the procedure just a few days after feeling pain while

jogging on a treadmill. Rivera, who turns 33 next month, hasn't missed a game the past six seasons. Cowboys owner Jerry Jones said Rivera's durability was among the reasons he gave the veteran a \$20 million, five-year contract. He'll be the

the side of the line where Dallas struggled most last season.

inσ

Cincinnati released cornerback Dennis Weathersby, whose career has been sidetracked by a car accident and drive-by shoot-

Weathersby missed last season with a head injury sustained in a car accident in April 2004. Since then, he has been unable to pass the physical needed to return

decision to cut him Friday.

In other deals Friday ■ The Kansas City Chiefs signed former Miami safety

Sammy Knight to a five-year deal ■ The Baltimore Ravens signed former Pittsburgh Steel-ers lineman Keydrick Vincent to

fill a vacancy at right guard. ■ The New York Giants signed another former Steeler, defensive lineman Kendrick Clancy.

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VOLVO CARS MILITARY SALES, IT'S A GREAT DEAL,

# Filling the brackets calls for some sense

anating from the NCAA tournament selection committee so far suggest their mom-service tab at a downtown Indianapolis hotel this weekend will be enormous.



Committee chairman Bob Bowlsby is already throwaround phrases like "it's going to ue pretty muddy" 'I don't think it's a foregone conclusion," hinting that deliberations

will be even more daunting than usual. And even that phrasing sounded decisive compared to this: "We've had

### Selection committee would do well to weigh more than statistics in seeding NCAA tournament field

a lot of shake-up in the past seven days," Bowlsby said. "In some ways, things have changed. In some ways, they have not."

In fairness, there are plenty more games to be played, and no matter what you think about the committee's handiwork come Sunday, keep this in mind: That room-service tab is the only thing that keeps college basketball out of the clutches of an evil cabal like the Bowl Championship Se-

A knuckleheaded decision on seeding - and there have been a few through the years - can make it tougher for a deserving team to win the national championship. But it doesn't take the chance away. After the committee is through

playing games on paper, they get out of the way and let teams decide matters on a court

But that's not to say that the 10 angry men on this year's committee couldn't use some help. Because angry is exactly what they'll be until somebody opens the door to the conference room late in the afternoon and invites the TV cameras in.

So here goes:

Don't lose sight of the big picture. Worry less about who gets the No. 1 seeds and see to it that the rest of the veteran coaches

with good squads all get a good shake. That's all there is to it.

That means Jim Calhoun at Connecticut, Eddie Sutton at Oklahoma State Mark Few at Gonzaga and Tom Izzo at Michigan State. At least one of them likely will be around at the end

Don't fixate on what happens the next few days. For all the things that have changed about the tournament during the past two decades, the most reliable predictor of a team's success has been the experience of its coach.

There's plenty of anecdotal evidence. John Wooden was 54 when he won the first of a record 10 titles. Dean Smith, who still tops

the victory list, was 51 when he got his first, and even Duke's Mike Krzyzewski didn't turn the trick until he was 44. ESPN.com found that during the past 20 vears, more of the same faces have been turning up, the most familiar ones have been going the furthest, and that gulf is only getting wider.

In 1985, a coach making the field, on average, was in for the fourth time. Last year, that numher was six. Over the same time Final Four coaches have averaged four more trips to the tourney — 9.5 versus 5.6 — than their counterparts in the rest of the

So get the upsets out of the way early. There are fewer and fewer, anyway, and they're impossible to predict. Spend more time plotting when and where exactly the Kentucky-Louisville should take place, since both Tubby Smith and Rick Pitino have earned that much consideration and few games are more compelling than one that threat-

ens to unhinge an entire state. Next, think story lines. A month from now, nobody will care about all the thumb-wrestling that went on to determine any places below line three - except, maybe your orthopedists. What the rest of us will remember then - besides how much we hate the unofficial CBS anthem, "One Shining Moment" - is whether somebody deserving is wearing a cut-down net instead of a noose.

Last year, it was Calhoun winning his second national championship the day after finding out he was turned down by the Hall of Fame (he's a finalist again this year). Two years ago, the role of long-suffering coach and the national title went to Jim Roeheim who likewise finds himself on the Hall's threshold. Both those outcomes should get the committee

The sentimental choice in last vear's Final Four was Sutton, one of the game's living encyclopedias and the oldest ever to make it that far. Getting there was no small accomplishment. Barely three years had passed since the Oklahoma State basketball family was devastated by the crash of a private plane ferrying two players and eight other members of the program back from a game at Colorado.

If he wins it all, you folks look like geniuses. Even better if Sutton happens to face Roy Williams and North Carolina in the final. years ago, the most-as-long-suffering Williams was in his final season at Kansas. arguably with the best of his many good teams, and got stuck playing second fiddle to Boeheim.

So get to work on that Oklahoma State-North Carolina matchup. If you can't get it done with a weekend's worth of deliberations at a nice hotel, we know who can. Those BCS computers don't take up much space and they never. ever call down to room service.

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Jim Litke is a national sports columnist for The Associated Press. Write to him for The Associat at jlitke@ap.org

# **SPORTS**



Hawks win for first time in more than a month, snap 23-game road losing streak, Page 40



Memphis' misses allow Louisville to escape with C-USA title

Page 43



Ramstein defeats Ft. Hood for national military powerlifting title



Page 44



Snowboarding kicks off **U.S. Forces Championships** 

Page 44



## Overall World Cup title first for U.S. since '83

BY ANDREW DAMPE

The Associated Press LENZERHEIDE, Switzerland - Bode Miller became the first U.S. skier in 22 years to

win skiing's overall World Cup title He finished ahead of his only remaining challenger, Benjamin Raich of Austria, in the season's final giant slalom Saturday to capture the crown

The last non-Europeans to win the overall championship were Americans Phil Mahre and Tamara McKinney in 1983

"It's been a bit embarrassing it's taken so long. It was getting a bit like the Red Sox," said Miller, a New Englander

"It was a bit embarrassing because it was like a curse.'

"The last four years I've had a chance to win an overall," added Miller, who was fourth twice and second in 2003. Miller finished second in the giant slalom,

0.68 seconds behind Stephan Goergl of Austria, who won with a two-run time of 2 min utes, 10.51 seconds. Raich came in third, 0.80 behind

Raich's only chance to stay alive for the overall was to win and hope Miller finished outside the top 15. Raich skied before Miller and posted the best time to that point. The Austrian's lead held for four more skiers until

Miller ended the suspense by beating Raich. With only Sunday's slalom left, Miller holds



Bode Miller, shown with his overall trophy, is the first U.S. skier to win the overall title since Phil Mahre and Tamara McKinney in 1983.

an insurmountable 204-point lead. He has 1,608 points to Raich's 1,404. A victory is worth 100 points

"It's done, it's over," Miller said.

Raich was left with the consolation prize of the World Cup giant slalom season title, finishing with a three-point edge over Miller, the defending champion in that category.

"I was trying to win the GS title today, but Benni had an amazing second run and that's what made the separation," Miller said. "I

wanted to win the GS obviously, but I won that

As overall champion, Miller joins such greats as Jean-Claude Killy, Ingemar Stenmark, Marc Girardelli, Pirmin Zurbriggen, Alberto Tomba and Hermann Maier, the Austrian who won his fourth title last season.

Mahre won three times from 1981-83, and McKinney is the only American woman to win. But Miller is nothing like his predeces-

He is set apart by a rebellious attitude — he is threatening to start his own ski tour next - and make-or-break style — he finished only one of eight slaloms this season, winning in Sestriere. Italy.

Raised in a New Hampshire home with no running water or electricity, Miller travels the World Cup circuit in a mobile home.

The overall was Miller's main goal all season. Skiers put much greater stake in the over-all title than Olympic and world championship gold medals because the standings are determined over the course of a season rather than a race.

Miller set up his victory with an extraordinary start to the season, winning six of the first 10 races. On Dec. 13 he captured his only slalom victory of the season and joined Girardelli as the only male skiers to win races in each of Alpine skiing's four disciplines in one

SEE OVERALL ON PAGE 46

Schilling unlikely to be ready for Opening Day Page 38